

UN76 Dialogue to Impact Change: Reflections from the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

April 29, 2022 from 1PM – 3:30PM, EDT



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. Volker Türk, Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Mr Türk coordinates global policy work, with a particular focus on follow-up to the 'Our Common Agenda' report and strategic coordination within the Executive Office. He ensures coherence in the analysis provided to the Secretary-General and conducts system-wide coordination, including on the Secretary-General's 'Call to Action for Human Rights'. USG Türk chairs the Deputies Committee and oversees secretariat support to the Executive Committee and the Senior Management Group, as well as coordinates closely on matters related to the Chief Executives Board. Prior to this role, USG Türk served as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Before joining EOSG, he was

Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva (2015-2019), with particular responsibilities for the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. He served in key UNHCR headquarter positions, including as Director of the Division of International Protection (2009-2015), Director of Organizational Development and Management (2008-2009); and Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice (2000-2004). Mr. Türk also occupied various positions with UNHCR around the world, including as Representative in Malaysia, Assistant Chief of Mission in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively; Regional Protection Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and in Kuwait. Mr. Türk holds a doctorate in international law from the University of Vienna and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Linz, Austria. He is fluent in English and French and has working knowledge of Spanish.



Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch (OIC) and Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat, Nairobi. Dr. Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a PhD in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, UK. She leads UN-Habitat's Urban Practices Branch, which is the hub for UN-Habitat's normative work and the home of its portfolio of global programmes. The work of the Branch covers all major areas of UN-Habitat's work such as national urban policies; policy, legislation and governance; urban planning and design; public space; urban regeneration; land, housing and shelter; urban economy and finance; urban basic services; safer cities; human rights and social inclusion, with extensive normative work and operational activities in nearly 80 countries. Shipra is also the senior advisor within UN-Habitat for local governments and their networks. Shipra has extensive experience in advising national

and local governments, as well as private sector organisations and networks, on issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, liveability and sustainability of cities, urban safety, women and cities, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. She is the former co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign, a platform that brings together a large array of global organisations to advocate for sustainable urbanisation, and the former Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners, a platform established to bring stakeholder voices to Habitat III and in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. She is also a former Vice-President of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners. Shipra has worked with the United Nations, specifically, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and UNESCO, as well as international NGOs and private sector organisations, for over two decades. She has worked across Asia, Africa, South Eastern Europe and the Middle-East. She has been involved in the development and execution of a variety of development, research and training projects and programmes, is a regular public speaker at national and international for a and has several publications to her credit.



Dr. Oliver Weigel Head of the Urban Development Division, Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building, Germany.

Dr. Weigel is head of the Urban Policy Division in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building. After having studied Economic Geography at the Mannheim and Gießen Universities, he started work as an academic at a Leipzig based Research Institute (1993). In 1995 he became responsible for setting up a strategic urban development department within the Leipzig City Council. Parallel to that he finished work on his PhD at Leipzig University in 1997. Until 2006, he headed the Urban Development Department of the City of Leipzig and the Olympic Planning Staff (2002 - 2004). Since

2006, he has been working at the Federal Ministry, where he is responsible for the National and International Urban Development Policy. He was also entrusted with drafting the "New Leipzig Charter - the transformative power of cities for the common good" under the German EU Presidency 2020. Since 2001 he teaches applied urban development policy at the University of Leipzig, since 2020 also at the TU Kaiserslautern. He is also Member of the German Academy for Urban Development and Regional Planning (DASL) and the SRL. Dr. Weigel's Degrees are Dipl. Geogr. (Giessen University) and Dr. rer. nat. (Leipzig University).
<https://www.bmwsb.bund.de/> <http://www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de>



Hon. Mr. Hector John, Member of Parliament Salisbury, Commonwealth of Dominica.

As a community organizer and leader, Mr. John served in different capacities at community and national levels. In 1996, He was involved in the revitalization of the National Youth Council of Dominica and served as chairman for three years from 1997 to 2000. From 1988 to 1990, he represented Dominica on the National Under-19 cricket team. For over 16 years, he worked in the vital banana industry employed. Mr. John graduated in 2009 with Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Monroe College, New York. While at Monroe College, he did his internship at the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority. He also headed the Multi-Cultural Students Association and the first chapter of the National Society of Black

Engineers (NSBE). In July 2008, he represented Monroe at the Third Annual ATHGO International Global Forum at the World Bank in Washington DC. He also represented the College at the NSBE 35th Annual Convention in Las Vegas in March 2009. He was first elected to the Parliament of Dominica in December 2009, as the Member of Parliament for Salisbury Constituency and still serving in that capacity. On July 14, 2010, he became the youngest Leader of the Parliament Opposition in Dominica's political history. In September 2011, he participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, completing a one-month course in, "Accountability in Government". He continues to serve on bipartisan parliamentary committees. Recently, he was appointed National Youth Coordinator of his political party.



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).



Ambassador, Dr. Carlos Garcia, former Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations, New York. Founder and CEO of CG Global Consultant, Secretary-General of United Nations Association of El Salvador. CG Global Consultant is a firm committed to the analysis, consulting and promotion of international relations, particularly on the United Nations agenda. The United Nations Association of El Salvador (UNA-SV) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educate, inspire and promote the United Nations principles, values and the sustainable development goals in El Salvador, including Salvadorans worldwide.



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.



Mr. David Michael Terungwa, PhD Candidate; Environmental Management, Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation, based in Nigeria and the Africa Regional Coordinator for Citizens Climate International. He is a member of the Resilient 40 a group of 40 Climate Resilient youth in Africa by Wilton Park, Foreign, commonwealth and development office. Head mitigation and Energy; Nigerian Civil Society platform on the Paris Agreement, A Crans Montana Fellow and Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders with the Policy for the New South Morocco. Driven from deeply held conviction, with his personal mantra “Thou shall not pollute the Earth”, he applies a degree in Agricultural Engineering with a specialization in Soil and Water Management and two post graduate degrees in Renewable energy and Masters in Environmental Planning and Protection. David believes in helping people, young and old to help themselves, empowering them to build Climate Resilience at community level. He is an advocate of climate justice, equity and climate income. David is the lead author of the book; Understanding Climate Change a Guide for Secondary Schools in Nigeria. David is an Executive Board member of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and a member NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum. David is an Alumni of Cambridge Institute of Sustainable Leadership Network. He is a husband and a father of two. .



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 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. Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, Program Officer, Global Program for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development, World Blind Union. Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius is responsible for coordinating the WBU Global Program for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development aiming to promote and ensure that urban development strategies, policies and practices are integral of disability inclusion, accessibility, and universal design to leave no one behind in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. He ensures strategic leadership of and development of the program, coordinates provision of technical expertise to key partners, networks, and allies to optimize the impact of WBU's work in this area. Hannes has been appointed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to serve in its Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE). Hannes currently co-chairs the Partner Constituent Group of Persons with Disabilities within the General Assembly

of Partners, an entity recognised within the New Urban Agenda, intending to collectively engage Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in relevant policy processes, events, and joint advocacy efforts. He leads the WBU's collaboration with UN-Habitat and acts as a focal point with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Global Network for Disability-Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development behind the Cities 4 All campaign. Hannes has a double-degree bachelor in Peace and Development Studies along Political Science. He has been an intern at Sida in Stockholm and Embassy of Sweden to Rwanda. He has a professional background in the Swedish disability rights movement with a focus on international cooperation, including serving on multiple executive boards. Hannes is positioned at the office of the African Union of the Blind (AFUB) in Nairobi, Kenya. For the first three years his position with WBU was enabled through a secondment program by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Key contributions include the WBU milestone agreement with UN-Habitat which he manages, the development of WUF10 Abu Dhabi Declared Actions, UCLG Policy Paper on Inclusive and Accessible Cities.



Ms. Jane Katz, Board Vice-Chair and Washington DC Representative to Global Urban Development, Representative of the UN New Urban Agenda and General Assembly of Partners on the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction/Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group. Jane coordinates policy/advocacy strategy as an international urban and housing advisor to the UN and other global organizations. She provided expertise in global housing policy, urban, and land-related issues and campaigns as Director of International Affairs and Programs in Habitat for Humanity International's Office of Government Relations and Advocacy for close to twenty years. Her work has included advocating for housing policy and land tenure issues for the Sustainable Development Goals and Habitat III-the New Urban Agenda and successfully influenced inclusion of these issues in those global agreements. She

led Habitat's Global Housing Policy Indicators assessment tool. Previously, Ms. Katz worked in the public and private sectors at Fannie Mae and in United States government agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Federal Home Loan Bank Board. She received her Master of Arts degree in Government and Politics in urban affairs and public administration from the University of Maryland and Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Cincinnati. She serves on advisory boards and coalitions, including Co-Chair of the GAP Civil Society Constituent Group; UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign; and a member of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster.



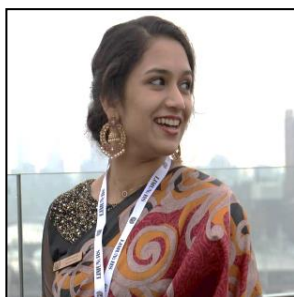
Mr. Theodore Liebman, FAIA, a Principal at Perkins Eastman, a global architectural firm, a Board Member and Vice President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU). A member of the NGOCSA-NY Executive Board and the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster, member of the General Assembly of Partners and Senior Fellow, Global Urban Development (GUD). His work concentrates on issues of housing, lifestyle, and culture in the urban environment and a comprehensive view of long-term sustainability that challenges the limits of density in urban communities. Liebman was Chief of Architecture - NY State Urban Development Corporation 1970-75. In 1975-77, posted in Iran with the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID), Architecture and Urban Design Advisor. In 1995-96, Mr. Liebman was the Land Development Manager for the World Bank funded Russian Federation Housing Project in Russia. Past president of the NY Chapter of the AIA, Recipient of the Andrew

J. Thomas Pioneer in Housing Award. In 2005, he received the Ratensky Lecture, Liebman received B. Arch. from Pratt Institute, M. Arch. from Harvard University, GSD, Rome Prize Fellowship in Architecture. In 1970-71, awarded the Wheelwright Travelling Fellowship in Architecture from Harvard to Study "Criteria for Housing at High Densities". Attended UN Habitat I, II, III and WUF 9, 10. Adjunct Professor of Affordable Housing at NYU. Lectured and served on architectural juries in the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Liebman engages in dialogue with governments, investors, developers, and students to shape the environment and sustain cities.



Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco, Diplomat, Political and Youth Advisor, Permanent Missions of the Sovereign Order of Malta and Slovakia to the United Nations in New York. High Representative for Youth, International Human Rights Foundation. Daniel is based in Madrid, Spain. His main professional interests include diplomacy, international relations, law, human rights and economics. Mr. del Valle serves as the official High Representative for Youth of the International Human Rights Foundation, where he brings also his recent and on-going experience serving as Policy Advisor to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York. In that capacity he has focused primarily on youth

policies, Latin America and Africa. Daniel has worked passionately to support the implementation of the UN Youth 2030 Strategy launched by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in September 2018, and the work of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Underpinned by his humanistic values, he has provided the said diplomatic missions with invaluable assistance in areas such as humanitarian aid, human rights, education, peacebuilding, public and cultural diplomacy and social media. He has worked directly also with a number of Latin American and African diplomatic missions both in New York and in Europe (e.g. Haiti and Lesotho) to ensure direct participation of youth in decision making processes and to involve young people in bringing about desired change in their countries and societies ("Ambassadors of Change"). Daniel's other commitments include serving as Secretary-General of the International University Circle of Spain (CIU), as Ambassador of the "We Are All Migrants" Campaign of the Organization of American States (OAS) for Spain, in the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), as well as Coordinator of the "Medicine for Venezuela" Initiative in Spain. He has led the UN Environment Program (UNEP) Campaign "Faith for Earth" in Spain (as a senior member of the Youth Council) and has worked closely with the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on their "For Safe Worship" Campaign. He is also a member of Advisory Boards of the Yuva Bhagidari Foundation in India (promoting young people's engagement in innovation, sustainability, democracy and good governance) and of the Peaceful Mind Foundation (a global organization, registered with the UN, focusing on mental health for all), as well as Honorary Advisor for Youth Leadership with the NGO Committee for Sustainable Development-NY. In addition, he has advised private companies from various sectors on security international events and political analysis. Daniel has taken courses in Economics at the University of Münster in Germany, has the title of Expert in Climate Change International Legal Regime, by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and is currently completing a Law degree, with a concentration in international law, at the El Escorial – María Cristina Royal University Centre associated with the Complutense University of Madrid, one of Europe's oldest universities.



Ms. Nudhara Yusuf, Global Governance Innovation Network Facilitator at The Stimson Center, Washington, DC and the Global Youth Coordinator at the Coalition for the UN We Need. Nudhara is the founder and leader of several grassroots NGOs and CSOs in India and the U.K., focusing primarily on skills-based empowerment of young people and ensuring youth voices are taken seriously in increasingly inter-generational forums. She is also an Honorary Advisor for Youth Leadership with the NGOCSD-NY. Having built and fostered large action-oriented communities through her various experiences across UNDP's Policy Support Bureau, Crisis management Bureau, and the larger UN system, she hopes to continue to

explore the intersection between an empowered youth and a policy-environment that enables their mobilization.

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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 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.". Recently, Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from United States President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Hosted by: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the UN and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, and UN-Habitat.

Co-Sponsors: PVBLIC Foundation, Baha'i International Community, Coalition for the UN We Need, SDG Relief Fund, The Stimson Center, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, 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.

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