

Accelerating Actions for the SDGs

Thursday, July 20, 2023 from 1pm–3pm, EDT



Dr. Michal Mlynár, Deputy Executive Director and UN Assistant Secretary-General of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Michal Mlynár (Slovakia) is a seasoned diplomat and educator with almost 30 years of experience in senior global assignments. Until April 2023, he was Slovakia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. During his term, he co-chaired the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform during the 77th session of the General Assembly, served as Vice President of the UNICEF Executive Board, Vice Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and Chair of the Sixth Committee. Prior to that, Mr. Mlynár served as Director General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation, and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He was also Slovakia's Ambassador in Nairobi and served as the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the President of its

Governing Council. He holds PhD and MA degrees from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, and also studied in the UK and the USA.

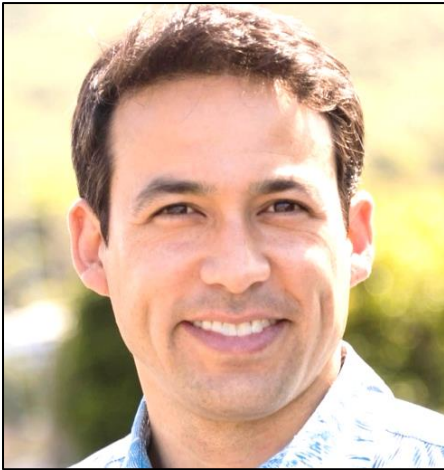


Satya S. Tripathi, Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet. A development economist, lawyer and changemaker with over 40 years of varied experience, Mr. Tripathi is the Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences - the world's largest academic institution dedicated exclusively 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.



Emilia Saiz Carracedo is the Secretary General of United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.



Hon. Chris Lee, Hawaii State Legislature, Senate District 25 (Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai). Chris Lee is a Hawaii State Senator representing the 25th Senate district on the island of Oahu. He has authored laws making Hawaii the first state to commit to 100 percent renewable energy, a carbon negative economy by 2045, zero emissions ground, sea, and air transportation, reforming utility business models, and requiring all public schools and universities to become energy net zero by 2035. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts, and previously chaired the House Committee on the Judiciary and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. Chris also serves as Vice President of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, a non-partisan coalition of 1400 state legislators from all 50 US states focusing on climate, energy, and environmental policy. He is a graduate of Oregon State University.



Alyn Ware, Founder & Global Coordinator of the network Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). Alyn Ware is a peace educator and anti-nuclear activist from New Zealand. In the 1980s he was active in establishing peace education programs in New Zealand schools and in the development of the peace studies guidelines adopted by the Department of Education. He was also one of the leaders in the national campaign which successfully prohibited nuclear weapons in 1987 and set a course for a more independent and peace oriented foreign policy. He moved to New York in the late 1980s to work on a number of international peace initiatives at the United Nations, including as the UN Representative for the Gulf Peace Team, co-founding member (and weapons-caucus chair) of the Coalition for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and UN Coordinator for a ground-breaking opinion by the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. For much of this time Alyn also served as the Executive Director at the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. In 1995, Alyn co-founded Abolition 2000, the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons which includes over 2000 endorsing organisations. He has led a number of

additional initiatives to advance the goal of nuclear abolition including establishing UNFOLD ZERO which promotes United Nations initiatives, and Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, which campaigns to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons industry, and redirect these budgets and investments into supporting peace, climate protection and sustainable development. He also established [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND), a global, cross-party network of over 700 parliamentarians, many holding key positions in their parliaments or in inter-parliamentary bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. At present, Mr. Ware works as PNND's International Coordinator and as Director of the Basel Peace Office. Mr. Ware has won a number of awards including the Right Livelihood Award (2009), UN International Year for Peace Award (New Zealand) and World Peace Award (Canada), and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times. He is a member of the World Future Council.



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. David is an Executive Board member of NGO

Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and a member NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the High Level Political Forum. David is an Alumni of Cambridge Institute of Sustainable Leadership Network.



Henk Rogers, President of the Tetris Company, Founder of Blue Planet Alliance, the Blue Planet Foundation, and Blue Planet Energy. Henk Rogers is an internationally-renowned entrepreneur and video game developer, widely recognized for his contributions to the gaming industry and his advocacy for sustainable-energy solutions. Dutch-born Rogers spent his early childhood in the Netherlands before his family relocated to New York. Rogers took an early interest in computers and gaming, and went on to study computer science at the University of Hawaii before moving to Japan in 1977. In Japan, Rogers started his first company, Bullet-Proof Software, which published “The Black Onyx,” the first role-playing game in Japan. However, he is perhaps best known for serving as the producer of the hugely popular game Tetris, which he helped bring to the Nintendo Game Boy in the late 1980s after a daring trip to the Soviet Union. His efforts helped make Tetris one of the most popular games of all time. Rogers’ story is the subject of the new Apple TV+ film “Tetris,” starring British actor Taron Egerton as Rogers. Following success in the gaming industry (and a near-fatal heart attack in 2005, which led him to identify his true life’s missions), Rogers became a strong advocate for

renewable energy and sustainability. He founded the Blue Planet Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to reduce Hawaii’s dependence on fossil fuels and promote the adoption of clean-energy solutions. The Foundation has been instrumental in implementing renewable-energy policies in Hawaii and led Rogers to found a sister organization, Blue Planet Alliance, which helps communities around the world transition from being reliant on fossil fuels to using 100% renewable energy.



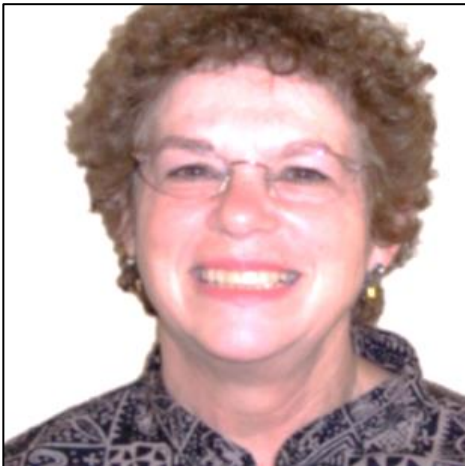
Sandra Baer, CEO, Personal Cities, Brand Ambassador, SmartCitiesWorld. Ms. Baer has been a champion of creative collaboration between the public and private sector. She has worked with city leaders and smart city companies, worldwide, for over 25 years, helping them discover the power of partnerships across city ecosystems to build trust, support city innovation and discover new paths to bigger, bolder urban transformation. In 2019 Ms. Baer was given the Smart City Leadership award at the Global CSR Conference in Mumbai, India. Ms. Baer leads Personal Cities, a smart city company focused on city identity and placemaking, social inclusion and equity, climate actions and the acceleration of digital technology investments to support innovators and entrepreneurs. In December 2019 Ms. Baer and her colleague, Dr. Lawrence Jones, released the whitepaper, “Rethinking, Reimagining, Redesigning Global Urbanization: The Hard Questions for

Urban Stakeholders.” They developed the concept of “Question Storming” to get to the heart of some of the world’s most intransigent problems advocating that “to change the world we must ask questions that disrupt the world,” and conducted 30 sessions with 200+ participants representing 30 countries, asking “How Can We Rebuild Trust in a Broken World?” Ms. Baer and Dr. Jones will publish their research, “How to Rebuild Trust: Question Storming to Create a Platform for Thinking Differently and Taking New Actions in 2022.” Ms. Baer is currently the Brand Ambassador for SmartCitiesWorld, the London-based world-leading platform for sharing ideas to solve urban challenges that enable us to live in more resilient, sustainable, safe, and prosperous environments. She is also a Special Advisor to “Saving the City: Remaking the American Metropolis,” a unique documentary film series highlighting successes and failures of urban redevelopment across North America to create awareness of the challenges and opportunities cities face.. She is on the Advisory Board for Smart Cities Expo USA, Smart City Expo Miami and is an Honorary Advisor to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Inc.. She is an Advisor to Citibeats an AI firm focused on helping governments to find ways to listen to and engage everyone in a community in real time. Citibeats provides invaluable insights to help urban leaders know the true concerns and issues across a community. Ms. Baer has a BA from the University of Missouri and an MBA in Marketing from Georgia State University. She is a graduate of the Global Advanced Management Program at Georgetown University. Ms. Baer believes that the smart city future is bright. “We must take bigger, bolder actions to meet the challenges of the pandemic, income inequality, social and racial injustice, political divisiveness, population growth, diversity and inclusion and the climate crisis. Our commitment to improving urban life and our enduring collaborative relationships will enable us to create a future that all of us want to visit.”



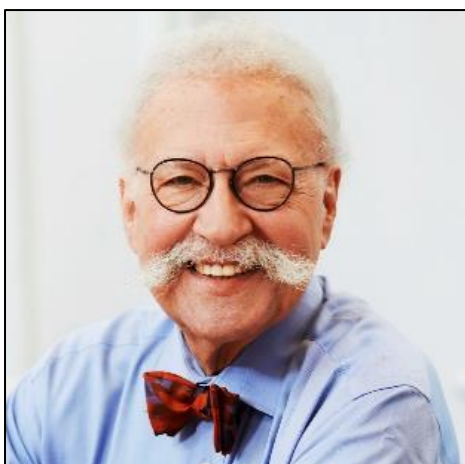
Jane Katz, Board Vice-Chair and Washington DC Representative to Global Urban Development, Representative of the UN New Urban Agenda and General Assembly of Partners on the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction/Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group. Jane coordinates policy/advocacy strategy as an 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.



Katherine Kline, Co-Chair of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) Older Persons Partner Constituent Group. Katherine is a former diplomat, arts administrator, adult ESL teacher and documentary producer and distributor, has worked for over 40 years with and for international organizations. She has been on numerous non-profit boards including UNA-NY and as part of the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing, New York., she has brought issues of global ageing to the Habitat Civil Society Working Group, to the NGO Major Group's Urban Cluster and as one of the UN volunteer representatives of INPEA (International Network for the Protection of Elder Abuse). Currently she is GAP's Recording Secretary. Her passion has been promoting the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities & Communities global initiative particularly through GAP and UN-Habitat. Dr. Kline advocates on behalf of older persons in all aspects of their lives. Katherine Kline holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Change from Union Institute and a B.A. in international studies from American University's

School of International Service. She serves as Secretary on the NGOCS-D-NY Executive Board and as a member of the Urban Cluster.



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 NGOCS-D-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.



Cherinet Hariffo, Temple University Political Science Student & NGOCS-D-NY Youth Rep to UN Dept. of Global Communications & Rep of the Institute for Conscious Global Change to UN ECOSOC from Ethiopia.

Cherinet is a passionate advocate for refugees and education, he once embarked on a journey as a refugee himself. Originally from Ethiopia, Cherinet overcame early challenges and hardships that instilled in him a strong dedication to supporting fellow refugees and advancing education initiatives. At just eight years old, he fled his homeland and found refuge in Kenya, experiencing life both within and outside of refugee camps throughout his childhood. Despite these formidable circumstances, Cherinet's determination led him to the United States where he currently resides and pursues studies in political science and legal

studies at Temple University. Apart from his academic pursuits, Cherinet actively engages with various organizations focused on youth mobilization and advocacy. He has been involved with influential groups such as the African Diaspora Youth Network and Youth for Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Through active participation in discussions on refugees, human rights, peace, security, and education issues worldwide, Cherinet has made significant impacts on the global stage. His unwavering passion for equal access to education shines through his advocacy work. By speaking at United Nations conferences and high-level forums, Cherinet calls upon leaders around the world to invest in quality education and ensure adequate resources are provided for all individuals. Furthermore, he strongly advocates for greater participation of youth from the Global South in decision-making processes both within the United Nations system and across international platforms. Collaborating closely with NGO leaders alongside heads of states ambassadors and senior United Nations officials alike; His commitment aims to address challenges faced by African youth specifically. Cherinet's personal experience as a refugee forms the bedrock of his dedication towards advocating for fellow refugees while promoting educational empowerment values vital to social change endeavours.



Amrita Gautam, 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."



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.



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 at the UN. Margo is a Sustainable Development Strategic Consultant connecting stakeholders from all sectors and regions with the SDGs. In addition, she is an Advisor for Yuth 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 NGOCS-D-NY Executive Board are proud that NGOCS-D-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 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, 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.

Partners: NGOCS-D-NY, PVBLC Foundation, SDG Relief Fund, the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Global Partnership Forum, Blue Planet Alliance, Coalition for the UN We Need, Baha'i International Community, The Stimson Center, RecycleGO, United Cities & Local Governments, IBTK Foundation, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Executive Leadership Development Council, 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>