

Reflections of COP28 & the UN 2024 Summit of the Future

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023 from 1pm - 3pm, EST



H.E. Mr. Odo Tevi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations. Since May 2014, Ambassador Tevi became Vanuatu's Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations, New York in May 2014. Apart from this role, Ambassador Tevi also assumed other international roles at the UN. He is currently the Chairman of UN Disarmament Commission, was the Chairman of the Special Committee on UN Charter and Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and also was Chairman of the Asia Pacific Group, Vice-President for the UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities and Chairman of the joint Vanuatu and UN Consultative Forum on ICPD and National Sustainable Development Plan. He was extensively involved in the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). From 2013-2014, he became an international consultant and did assignments for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. For the latter he investigated whether the four countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) should adopt a common currency. From 2003 to 2013, Ambassador Tevi was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. During this period, he was

also Vanuatu's Alternate Governor to the International Monetary Fund. His major achievement as Governor of the central bank during his 10 year stint was that Vanuatu was able to achieve monetary and financial stability and this was translated into record high economic growth. This was achieved despite the challenges imposed by the 2008 global financial crisis. Before becoming Governor, he was Head of the Macroeconomic Policy Division at the Vanuatu Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. He has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Papua New Guinea. He then obtained a Masters of Arts (Development Economics) from the University of Sussex, UK. He has a graduate diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also an Advanced Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from New York University. He did his executive training at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and also at Columbia University Business School. He and his wife Sharon have three young children and are residing in New York. He is an avid reader and loves music.



Hawa Taylor-Kamara Diallo, Chief of the Civil Society Unit at the Civil Society and Advocacy Section at the UN Department of Global Communications. She has extensive United Nations field and headquarters experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with a particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1987 in the Department of Public Information (now known as the Department of Global Communications) and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively from 1992 - 1994. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and a Partners and Youth Officer, where she managed strategic partnerships and

designed and implemented empowerment programmes for communities in informal urban settings. Ms. Diallo is a national of Sierra Leone and the United States of America.



Dr. Linda Vakunta, Deputy Mayor of Madison Wisconsin, Founder and Executive Director of Project 1808. Dr. Vakunta joined the Mayor's Office to assist with housing and human services with more than a decade of experience in grassroots community engagement and program development, monitoring and evaluation work. She served as Program Director at the Chicago-based Heartland Alliance International (HAI), where she led, developed, and designed training programs for government, community, and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons. In recent years, she has worked as a researcher with Sustaining Natural Circle's CDC funded grant on understanding impacts of opioid use among African American women in Madison. Dr. Vakunta is a founder and executive director of a Wisconsin-based non-profit called Project 1808. She was instrumental in the growth, success, and global-local recognition of the group as an important player in transforming lives, enabling youth and adults, and building

capacity in Sierra Leone through School-Community-University Partnership Models. She holds a PhD in Environmental Studies, a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and a Bachelor's Degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Simon Littlewood, Founder & CEO of SDG Global Group, an investment group focused on building and investing in businesses globally which improve quality of life and sustainability. With over three decades' experience of founding, investing in, raising and structuring capital for a wide range of listed and private businesses, Simon has market-leading expertise in both developed and emerging markets. Recognized as an expert in the sector, Simon has been investing since the 1980s in sustainable businesses, with a current focus on agriculture, food, health, education and fintech. He is building a number of funds and platforms, with transparent, international standard reporting and governance, using both traditional and digital finance tools. These provide entrepreneurs, businesses and projects access to capital, technology, expertise and markets; and opportunities for investors, funders and technology providers. Simon's international business adventures started in Africa in the 1980s. For the last 35 years, he has been working

across emerging markets including the Middle East, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Greater China. Simon is currently serving as board member and advisor to a number of companies, funds, NGOs and other organizations. He was previously with HSBC London (structured finance), PwC (UK, Africa), BDO (UK, Europe) and several specialist funds and investment banks. Simon is a UK qualified chartered accountant (CPA equivalent) with a law degree from Oxford University.



Dr. Richard Ponzio, Senior Fellow and Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Program at The Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., where he co-led the October 2019 Global Policy Dialogue on Climate Governance: Innovating the Paris Agreement & Beyond in Seoul. Previously, he led the Global Governance Program at The Hague Institute for Global Justice, where he directed the Albright-Gambari Commission with the Stimson Center. Earlier, Dr. Ponzio served as Senior Adviser in the U.S. State Department's Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he conceptualized and coordinated Secretary Hillary Clinton's and later John Kerry's New Silk Road initiative. Widely published (including the books *Human Development and Global Institutions: Evolution, Impact, and Reform* with Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, *Just Security in an Undergoverned World* with Dr. William Durch and Dr. Joris Larik, *Pioneering the Human Development Revolution* with Khadija Haq, and *Democratic*

Peacebuilding: Aiding Afghanistan and other Fragile States), he has served in senior roles with the United Nations in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, New York, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and the Solomon Islands. He received a doctorate in politics and international relations from the University of Oxford on a Clarendon scholarship.



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.



Kate Wright, Executive Director of Climate Mayors. Kate is responsible for strategic direction of the network, including helping cities implement bold policies and programs, supporting equitable climate action by the Federal Administration and Congress, and building initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while advancing economic growth and environmental justice. Prior to joining Climate Mayors, Kate served as CEO of CivicWell (formerly the Local Government Commission), where she worked with city and county leaders for fifteen years spearheading environmental initiatives on climate resilience, clean mobility, sustainable water management, livable communities, renewable energy, and affordable housing.



Dr. Vin Menon, Co-Founder of Blockchainpreneur, and CEO of AQUAE Impact. Vin is a passionate Blockchain Entrepreneur, Author, ESG Advocate, Evangelist and Strategic Advisor for ICOA Fund, ICOA, CGCX.io, BCMGuru, Majic Corp and Bamboo. With 18 years of experience in technology and successful exits in the Tech, FinTech, and MedTech sectors, Dr. Menon's impact extends far beyond the business world. His passion for blockchain technology as a catalyst for positive change has taken him to represent 'Blockchain for Impact' at the United Nations SDG Media Zone, where he elucidated the immense potential of blockchain in addressing pressing global challenges. As a published author, Dr. Vin's book, "Blockchain for Good: How Blockchain is Solving Sustainable Development Goals" launched during the UN General Assembly, underscores his dedication to harnessing technology for social impact, highlighting his commitment to advancing sustainable development through technology. Before his foray into blockchain, Dr. Menon served as the Vice-Chairman and Honorary

Secretary of Cloud Computing Chapter (CCC) EXCO under Singapore Information Technology Federation (SITF). He played pivotal roles on the Board of Directors of the Spirit of Enterprise (SOE) and the Mentoring Programme under Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) by SPRING Singapore. Dr. Vin's journey includes co-founding MindWave Solutions, where he served as a Managing Director from 2005 to 2015 driving MindWave to achieve ISO 9001:2008 certification and numerous awards for its innovative work. Dr. Menon holds a PhD in Blockchain for Impact in Healthcare from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, EMBA from the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and is an alumni of Wharton and Haas Business Schools.V4B.



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.



Alina Karimamusama, Founder of AfriHER in Zambia. Alina is an award winning Zambian woman social entrepreneur and activist, who is actively contributing to the African entrepreneur eco-system, creating economic emancipation and accessible education in her country. AfriHER, is a registered NGO in Zambia that empowers Africa's greatest resources; its young people and women. Her foundation builds youth resource centers and entrepreneurial hubs that empower communities to gain and harness new skills, attain flexible funding/business capital in-cash & in-kind, become financially literate, eradicate period poverty, and most primarily solve the challenges of SRHR, while protecting young women and girls from trafficking and early-childhood marriages. Alina's activism was born after her own survival story, as a child, she had experienced living in extreme poverty in a small periurban settlement in the Copperbelt of Zambia, being trafficked across borders by her own father and has known what it is like to sleep hungry. Her mission is to solve the challenges that lead to these unfortunate circumstances at ALL levels - grass roots to policy. Her activism and impact in Zambia has led to her being honored as a Zambia National Hero

by Enko Ed in 2021, and being appointed on National Duty to help get the country to Vision2030: middle income economy by TEVETA Zambia. Alina also founded a youth led VC fund and summit series, for young Afri====entureCon Africa' creates empowerment through entrepreneurship and education by connecting young successful African entrepreneurs from the diaspora and continent to invest in young African start-ups, while also providing real-time scholarships to local and international universities. During its pilot launch in 2022 December, The Intercontinental School of Economics and Applied Sciences (ISEAS) launched for the first time in Zambia at VentureCon, and was enrolling students throughout the 3 day empowerment summit, 10 young entrepreneurs also received funding of over K100,000 and additional support valued at \$12000 each She is a serial entrepreneur with businesses including; a luxury interior design company that has clientele ranging from Barclays Bank, The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and Airport VIP Lounges, and additionally is the proud owner of a holistic women's wellness brand that produces a range of intimate feminine Hygeine washes sold country-wide in clinics, pharmacies, chemists which also has two holistic wellness spa & beauty centers (that employ and train women from local communities strictly) in Zambia with one franchised in Namibia. While Alina sits and serves on many boards like Zambezi Capital, The Grandmothers Collective, Girls Unite, Youth Alive, YAI, The Helena Foundation and others, Alina is proud to be an NGOCS-D-NY Youth Rep. for the United Nations Dept. of Global Communications.



Miroslav Polzer, Founder and Executive Director at IAAI GloCha and the Strategic Director of the Climate Chain Coalition. IAAI GloCha is a UN accredited social enterprise based in Klagenfurt, Austria and the Climate Chain Coalition is the world's leading network of organizations that work in the field of harnessing blockchain technology for enhanced multistakeholder climate action. GloCha is a multi-stakeholder partnership, an ecosystem and some kind of next generation United Nations for non-state actors, which aims to bring together social innovation, cultural innovation, digital innovation and all types of needed resources towards youth empowerment for local and global action for the common good in the context of UN programs (especially SDGs/Agenda2030 and global climate goals).



David Michael Terungwa, PhD Candidate; Environmental Management, Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation, based in Nigeria. David is part of 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. He is a husband and a father of two children.



Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique. Dr. Bass is a Transformational Strategist Coach, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist with over 28 years of experience in the business industry. She has been a community organizer, for grassroots movements, an author, a keynote speaker, a business entrepreneur for business start-ups and a business strategist for non-profits. Her passion is helping men and women become leaders in their communities. Over the past 11 years, she has trained and mentored thousands of corporate professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and varied industries across the globe. Every day, she looks forward to helping her clients transform their lives, so they can create wealth and have a long-lasting sustainable legacy. In 2011, she was honored as a social ambassador for her humanitarian work and her positive fight on social justice in Haiti. She has a Bachelor in criminal justice, MBA in Organizational

Psychology and Ph.D. in public policy and administration. Working with Al Gore she is a Mentor/Leader at Climate Reality Project and Vice President of ASPAFrique a non-profit. As President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation she is continuously working to support education, poverty alleviation, human rights, climate action, and sustainable development. Dr. Bass' goal is to educate women to become leaders in being of serve to their communities.



Jane Katz, Vice Chair and Washington, DC Rep. of Global Urban Development, Urban Rep to UNDRR/Sendai Stakeholder Group (SEM, CSO co-chair UN Habitat World Urban Campaign and GAP. 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.



Prof. Jan W. Dash, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Climate Action, Research, and Policy (World Scientific, 2023), and Editor of the Climate Change Encyclopedia (2021). To help ensure a livable world, Jan promotes climate change action with opportunity and risk management. He is the Lead Climate Advisor to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, and the Editor for their annual Climate Paper. His book (2016) is Quantitative Finance and Risk Management, A Physicist's Approach with a chapter on Climate Change Risk Management. He is a Gabelli Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Fordham University. He is the founder of Climate CARO, motivating universities to train M.S. students for senior business positions as Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Officers. He spoke on a panel at the 2015 Paris UN Climate Conference and attended the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference. Jan was a leader and innovator in quantitative finance and risk management at major financial institutions for many years. In his

earlier career as a physicist, Jan was Directeur de Recherche at the Centre de Physique Théorique (CNRS, Marseille, France).



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.



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 and Climate Reality Project Leader and a Member of the Coalition for the UN We Need. The 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 with all

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

“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”

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