

## 2020 Climate Week NYC Dialogue: "UN75 & the Reality of Climate Change"



**Mr. Al Gore, former Vice President and the Founder and Chairman of The Climate Reality Project**, a nonprofit devoted to solving the climate crisis. He is also a senior partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and a member of Apple Inc.'s board of directors. Gore was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, 1978, 1980, and 1982 and to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and 1990. He was inaugurated as the 45th vice president of the United States on January 20, 1993, and served eight years. He is the author of the #1 New York Times best-sellers *An Inconvenient Truth* and *The Assault on Reason*, and the best-sellers *Earth in the Balance*, *Our Choice: A Plan To Solve the Climate Crisis*, *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change*, and most recently, *The New York Times* best-seller *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. He is the subject of the documentary movie *An Inconvenient Truth*, which won two Oscars in 2006 -- and a second documentary in 2017, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. In 2007, Gore was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, along with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for informing the world of the dangers posed by climate change.



**Mr. Satya S. Tripathi is a UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the UN Environment New York Office.** Mr. Tripathi is a development economist and lawyer with over 35 years of varied experience, he has served with the UN since 1998 in key positions in Europe, Asia and Africa in the areas of Climate Change, Human Rights, Democratic Governance and Legal Affairs. He was 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 over US\$ 7 billion for post-tsunami and post-conflict recovery efforts in support of the Indonesian government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office of 10 UN Agencies established by the UN Secretary General in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of a US\$ 1 Billion REDD+ partnership between Indonesia, Norway and other stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation through the conservation of forests and preservation of peat-land and bio-diversity. Mr. 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 in developing countries. He previously served on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests; and in India as a member of its national civil service.



**Prof. Jan Dash PhD is Editor of the World Scientific Encyclopedia of Climate Change (2020).** He was Directeur de Recherche at the Centre de Physique Théorique in Marseille France, and published over 60 scientific papers. Subsequently, he worked for many years on quantitative finance and risk management. His book on the subject includes a chapter on Climate Change Risk Management. He was Adjunct Professor at the Courant Institute, NYU. He did the [math](#) behind the [Bloomberg Climate Clock](#) and spoke on a panel at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. He has been a long standing member of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and honored to be their Lead Expert Adviser on Climate Change.



**Ms. Harriet Shugarman, Founder & Executive Director of ClimateMama and Chair of the Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter.** Harriet was a 2019 featured speaker at the Global Engagement Summit at United Nations Headquarters, she is a sought after speaker, recognized nationally as an *influencer and connector* in the climate movement. ClimateMama, is an on-line community that reaches individuals in over 110 countries and all 50 states. As a leader and mentor with The Climate Reality Project, Harriet chairs the Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter and was the recipient of the Climate Reality 2017 Green Ring Award. Harriet is also profiled in Mr. Gore's 2017 book: *An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power*. Her writing and thought pieces on climate solutions appear in national and regional publications on-line and in print and her 2020 book: *"Talking to Your Kids About Climate Change, Turning Angst to Action"* will be out May 5th. Harriet has worked for more than 25 years in Canada and in the United States with governments, international organizations, and educational institutions on climate and sustainability issues as an economist, policy analyst, informal educator and an adjunct professor. Harriet teaches world sustainability and climate change and society at Ramapo College of New Jersey.



**Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D is President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation**, Vice President of ASPAFrique and a Climate Reality Project Mentor/Leader. She is on the Global Board of Advisors for the SDG Impact Awards. 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.



**Ms. Catherine Schuller, Curator of hiTechMODA & Founder of Runway the Real way.** She is a former Ford plus size model, actress, comedienne and performer who is considered an icon and plus pioneer of the size diversity segment of the fashion industry. Her career in fashion spans four decades as she has reinvented and redefined with innovative projects, programs and platforms that create more opportunities for inclusivity. She was Fashion Editor of MODE Magazine, the Vogue executed plus size magazine that grew to 4 million readers in four years of its existence. She is the premiere industry plus size image consultant and invented Runway the Real Way to ensure that all sizes, shapes, ages, genders, heights, ethnicities, persuasions, nationalities would be represented in the modern contemporary fashion world. She is the Image and Style Director of Divabetic a charity outreach for women living with or at risk of diabetes started by the Luther

Vandross Foundation. She is an instructor at Fashion Institute of Technology where she created the program Business of Curves and also a professor at LIM College where she teaches in the new Sustainability Program. She is an Advocate Member of the New York Fair Trade Coalition. She recently partnered with Pamela Privette to create hiTechMODA and produced the ReGen Runway dedicated to all things sustainable on the conscious catwalk. The sold out show was hosted by Marcos Salazar of Be Social Change and sponsored by American Foundation for Suicide. Catherine is an Honorary Advisor of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.



**Ms. Jessica Grindstaff Artistic Director of thePhantom Limb Company**, Jessica is a New York City-based visual artist, playwright and director and is co-founder and artistic director of Phantom Limb Company along with her partner Erik Sanko. Jessica co-creates iconic stories that are built on an intersection of innovation, social change and visual art, with a particular focus on the climate emergency and environmental injustice. This unique integration of social impact and aesthetic is the essence of her work. For the past decade, Jessica has committed herself almost exclusively to the work of creating The Environmental Trilogy comprised of 69° SOUTH, Memory Rings and Falling Out. The trilogy explores the human relationship to nature, the environment, and the climate crisis through several different lenses. This work has taken her to Antarctica, on an expedition to discover the oldest living tree in the world and finally in 2018 to Fukushima, Japan

where the tsunami and subsequent nuclear meltdown of 2011 have devastated a tremendous area of Northern Japan to this day. Together with Phantom Limb, Jessica has been the recipient of generous grants from The Rubin Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, The Asian Cultural Council, Japan Foundation, Jim Henson Foundation, MAP Fund, Jerome Foundation, National Science Foundation as well as residencies at Robert Rauschenberg's estate, the Hermitage, Harvard University's Center for the Environment, NYU Tisch School of Drama, Dartmouth College, Akademiet For Utæmnet Kreativitet in Copenhagen, Denmark, NYU Abu Dhabi as well as the Victorian College of Art in Melbourne Australia.

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**Ms. Rory Mondshein, Director of Civic Engagement and Strategic Diplomacy at IAPSS, Climate Reality Project Leader, and Communications Associate at UN2020.** Rory is a human rights advocate with 10 years of experience in multi-level policy and communications work. Holding a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bard College and a Masters of Science in Human Rights from the London School of Economics & Political Science, Rory has supplemented her international NGO experiences with local-level human rights-based policymaking. In addition to coordinating educational programs in over a dozen countries, Rory has contributed to local politics through her advocacy, community work, and social impact program—Make It Appn—which used technology to help New Yorkers get access to social services and shelters. Rory currently supplements her local-level work by serving as a Communications Associate with UN2020,

Climate Reality Leader, Carnegie New Leader, Vice Chair of IAPSS' Comparative Politics Research Committee, and Community Service Director for UNA USA SNY YP Board. She currently sits on the National Council for the United Nations Association of the United States of America. As a Robert J. Myers Fellow at the Carnegie Council, Rory focuses on the economics and externalities of disability exclusion in the United States.



**Ms. Luna Abu-Yunis is a 14 year old Arab Israeli Fridays For Future Climate Activist from Israel.** Luna studies at Al Bashaer Private School and is with Debate for Peace. Luna lives in Sakhnin, a city in the north of Israel. She speaks Arabic, Hebrew, and English. She is passionate about diplomacy, science, and languages. Luna is also a violinist. Luna recently received the 2020 Young Diplomat of the Year award from Debate for Peace. Luna is a climate activist in the international movement Fridays for Future (FFF), but it's called in Israel Strike for Future. She is protesting every Friday for sharing more awareness to her community and calling her government to take action. Luna served as the national community coordinator for Israel in the educational climate organization- Climate Science for the past 6 months. Besides, she is now helping to build a big team there. Luna is also a volunteer in the Re-Earth Initiative organization, and Mock COP26

youth-led project. Luna is part of many environmental and climate forums, including the Asian Environmental Youth Network and Earth Strategy. Luna had an interview on the 24 hours live stream on Fridays for Future International YouTube channel celebrating earth day and had another interview with FFF Vilnius (47:00) the same day. Luna attended a climate Model UN conference and she discussed the climate issue there. The conference was with the press coverage and Parliament representatives from her country (Knesset representatives).



**Ms. Runa Ray, Founder & Designer of Runa Ray Designs.** She is an Indian born who established her line in 2012. Branding her label a sustainable fashion company with commitments to fair trade garments, organic fabrics and zero waste initiatives. The company donates portions of proceeds to fund environmental educational programming to further promote sustainability. Bolstered by her ecologically driven approach and 'design with the end in mind', Ray commits her brand to fashion environmentalism and the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' model while executing a low emissions manufacturing process, converting garment scraps to paper to offset her companies carbon footprint. From the sourcing of natural fibers, to zero wastage reuse of surplus fabrics and the recycling of biodegradable materials, Runa Ray is intentional about her companies pledge to sustainability.



**Mr. Robert Gierke, Founder & CEO of Purenessity, MBA.** Purenessity, is a business consulting company focusing on purpose-driven brand building. Robert's life's purpose is to drive consciousness development and to steward businesses to make a positive impact towards the 17 UN SDGs. Being a global citizen, having strong business skills and speaking 6 languages he dedicates his work to contribute to a dignified life in the world. Robert was born in East Germany in 1977. He grew up in socialism-communism until the Berlin Wall fell when he was 12 years old. Following his high-school graduation he went to Northern Arizona University in the US to study Business Administration. After a first work experience in the San Francisco Bay Area he returned to Northern Arizona University in 2000 to earn his MBA. In 2001, he joined the Salt Lake Organizing Committee to stage the 2002 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. In 2002, he returned

to Germany and started a 14 year career at global sports brand Adidas where Robert worked in various positions within global marketing and finance. He left Adidas in 2016 to pursue his life's purposed. In late 2016 he served as a volunteer in the medical area at the refugee camp Moria in Lesbos, Greece. Following this profound and humbling experience Robert founded his purpose-driven consultancy Purenessity in 2017. Motivated by his concern about climate change and his love for nature he become a Climate Leader in the Climate Reality Project in 2018.





**Mr. David Michael Terungwa, Founder and Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP) based in Nigeria.** He is the African Regional Coordinator for Citizens Climate Lobby, the West Africa Coordinator for The African Climate Reality Project & the volunteer coordinator 350 Nigeria. He advocates, educates and mobilizes communities to build resilience and take action on climate change. He is a highly efficient & dedicated individual with over 10 years' combined experience in Leadership for environmental sustainability, climate change and sustainable development in Africa. Passionate about environmental management, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy, dedicated to enabling sustainable development particularly in Sub Saharan Africa. David's personal mantra "Thou shall not pollute the Earth," he applies a degree in Agricultural Engineering with a specialization in Soil

and Water Management and a post graduate certificate in Renewable energy from TERI University New Delhi. His passion is training people, young and old, in best practices for sustainable land management, food production and environmental conservation. One of his initiatives is the #SolarForIDPCamps which is aimed at providing clean energy access to nearly 2 million persons taking shelter in different Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps across Nigeria by lighting up the IDP camps with Solar. Africa Regional Coordinator for Citizens Climate Lobby with 20 active groups spread across 15 countries in Africa teaching young people how to respectfully engage and lobby policy makers in their respective countries to make laws for environmental sustainability and climate change. Head Energy and Mitigation; Nigeria Civil Society Framework on Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.



**Mr. Jeffery Huffines is Senior Advisor to UN2020 and Together First.** Jeffery represented CIVICUS at the UN High-Level Political Forum since its inception and was an organizing partner at the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs during the lead up to RIO+20 through the adoption of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Jeffery joined CIVICUS in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). Since 2017 the civil society-led initiative UN2020 has facilitated discussions with many member states, UN secretariat officials and civil society 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. He was Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda," UNHQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. Previously,

Jeffery was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), when the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community 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 and Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community. Margo is a Coordinating Partner of the UN2020.** She is the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is a proud Climate Reality Project Leader and a member of Soroptimist International. She is a Designer and Artist who has been dedicated to being of service with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations working in the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events. She works with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. 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's work is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change." The NGOCS-D-NY is a proud Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Ocean Day/Week initiative. Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."

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