

Reflections of the UN76th General Assembly & the IPCC Report: Galvanizing Actions to End the Pandemic

Thursday, September 30, 2021 @1PM – 3:30PM, EDT



H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic 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.)



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



Mr. 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 more than 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 (UNMIBH); 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 recovery efforts in support of the government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office 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. 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 for millions of people in developing countries. He previously served on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests.



Mr. Robert Skinner, Deputy Director and Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Global Communications. Prior to this, Robert was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Washington, DC, serving in this role from April 2021 to September 2021 and from November 2015 to July 2018. In between these periods, Robert was Senior Special Advisor in the UN's Department of Global Communications, focusing on the UN's COVID-19 Communications Response Initiative, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Prior to joining the UN, Robert was the Executive Director in the New York Office of the United Nations Foundation. Before joining the Foundation in 2006, Robert held several positions in the United

States Department of State, including as Deputy Spokesperson at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York, and as Public Affairs Officer for the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He also held diplomatic posts in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and San Salvador, El Salvador. Robert was an attorney in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Chicago, Illinois before starting his diplomatic career. Robert holds a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Oakland University in the United States. He is married and has two children.



Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe, CEO of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK), where she has worked since 2006. She is the first woman to hold this role. As chief executive, Natalie works closely with UNA-UK's Board of Trustees on the Association's strategy and policy positioning. She provides analysis on international relations and institutions, and leads the UNA-UK team in its campaigning, advocacy, outreach, fundraising and education activities. In 2019-21, Natalie took leave of absence from UNA-UK to work at the United Nations in New York - first as Speechwriter to H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, 73rd President of the UN General Assembly, and then as Chief of Strategy for the Organisations 75th anniversary campaign (link to www.un75.online). She continues to support the follow-up

process to UN75, working with the Igarapé Institute in Brazil on a digital stakeholder consultation. Natalie has advised governments, NGOs and UN entities on issues such as human rights and governance. In 2014, she co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign (link), which helped to transform the UN Secretary-General selection process. In 2018, she won a Global Challenges Foundation award for a proposal to open up UN decision-making and programme delivery. That year, she launched the Together First coalition on global governance reform (link) at the inaugural Paris Peace Forum. A regular commentator on international organisations, Samarasinghe has co-edited the eight-volume SAGE Major Work on the UN and contributed chapters to the Oxford and Routledge UN handbooks. She has also edited specialist publications on sustainable development and climate change for Witan Media and worked with the National Commission for UNESCO on teaching materials. She has degrees from the University of Oxford and London School of Economics.



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.



Mr. Doug Lessing, Founder of Phin®, a philanthropic tech platform. Doug has been a speaker and longtime partner of multiple tech companies over the past 30 years, and he has made it his life's work to evangelize the importance of using business as force for good in a fractured world. As the Founder of his latest venture, Phin®, a philanthropic tech platform and certified BCorp, he is an advocate for companies being great by doing good. Phin® models the BCorp ethos of using business as a force for good while helping companies build great teams and company culture by incorporating positive values and social good into their daily actions. Doug was born and raised along the Great South Bay of Long Island, NY and now resides in Blue Point, known for its oysters and beer. Married to his wife Grace, with 3 Gen-Z daughters, Alexie, Jillian and Lindsay, Doug has been surrounded, outnumbered and influenced by strong women. This

positive influence has encouraged him on his quest to be an exponential force for good and compassion, creating a more equitable, healthy and peaceful world for future generations.



Dr. Jan W. Dash, PhD, Editor of the Climate Change Encyclopedia World Scientific (2021) and Editor of the Climate Portal. He is the Lead Climate Advisor to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. To help ensure a livable world, Jan promotes climate change risk management (see the overview video). He is the founder of Climate CARO, motivating universities to train M.S. students for a new business profession – Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Officer. He is a Visiting Gabelli Fellow at Fordham University working on climate and risk curricula. He is a Matchmaker for the Climate Science Rapid Response Team. He did the math behind the Bloomberg Climate Clock that won a 2016 NY Press Club Award. He originated the “one-liner” responses to climate contrarian fallacies. His

book has a chapter on Climate Change Risk Management. He spoke on a panel at the 2015 Paris COP21 Climate Conference.



Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco, Policy Advisor for Youth in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovakia to the United Nations. Daniel is a Spanish individual who has fought for the empowerment of young people in the political-diplomatic world. He is also the Secretary General of the International University Circle of Spain (CIU), which coordinates the external activities of the most prestigious universities in the country. He carries out the work of ambassador in Spanish territory of some outstanding campaigns of the OAS (Organization of American States) and the PADF (Pan American Development Foundation). The most recent is based on the defense of the fundamental rights of migrants who travel to Spain, and rejects any racist and xenophobic attack. This has the name of "All are migrants" (#TodosSomosMigrantes). He is also involved in some United Nations campaigns, the latest with UNAOC (United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations),

called "For Safe Worship", in order to safeguard religious sites. He also leads the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) campaign "Faith For Earth" in Spain. He is also part of the Board of Advisors, with different leaders from around the world (Presidents, former presidents, ministers ...) of the "Peaceful Mind Foundation", a global organization registered with the United Nations, which has the purpose of making psychology a household term, peace, and well-being and Culture. Daniel del Valle has advised several companies from different sectors, including security, international events, and political analysis. Daniel has studied Economics (from the University of Münster, Germany), specializing in the knowledge-based economy, and in the study of innovation districts. Likewise, Daniel has studies in Law (at the Real Centro Universitario Maria Cristina, a center attached to the Complutense University, Madrid). He works very closely with some embassies. His work in the Haitian embassy in Spain is remarkable. He has also worked with the Government of Haiti for the realization of Sports Olympics at the national level. Mr. Daniel del Valle carries out a very important humanitarian work, sending medicines to Venezuela due to the critical situation.



Ms. Nudhara Yusuf, Global Youth Coordinator at the Coalition for the UN We Need. Nudhara is a recent graduate of Philosophy, Politics and Economics at University College London. She is 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. Having built and fostered large action-oriented communities through her various experiences on the SDG Integration Team at the UNDP Policy Support Bureau, World Federation of UN Associations, as a Young sustainable development research scholar at Yale University, and now through C4UN, she hopes to continue to explore the intersection between an empowered youth and a policy-

environment that enables their mobilization



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. Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and 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 proud to be a Board member of Soroptimist International Metro New York 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 has been 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.”*

Partners: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Baha’i International Community, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, SDG Relief Fund, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, Global Family, Soroptimist International, World Federalist Movement-Canada, 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, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”

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

