



## 2021-22 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

### *Building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*

28 February – 3 March 2022  
8:00pm (Republic of Korea), 12:00pm (Geneva), 6:00am (New York)

#### Speakers and Moderator Biography

#### Session One: Forum Opening and Quality Education Monday 28 February 2022



**Mr. Liu Zhenmin**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. Liu started his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1982. Since then, he has served the Ministry in various capacities, including as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (2009-2011); Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2006-2009); Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (2003-2006); and Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (1998-2003).

He also served in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (1992-1995) and in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (1984-1988).

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Mr. Liu holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University. He was born in August 1955 in Shanxi Province, China. Mr. Liu is married.



**H.E. Han Jeoung Ae**  
Minister of Environment, Republic  
of Korea

**Her Excellency, Ms. Han Jeoung-ae** is the 19th Minister of Environment in the Republic of Korea. Prior to her current position, she was a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for three consecutive terms from 2012 to 2020 where she served as the Member of National Assembly Committee of Environment and Labor, Co-Chair of National Assembly Forum on Climate Change, and Chair of Policy Committee for the Democratic Party. She is also currently leading the carbon neutral society of the Republic of Korea and strives to implement inclusive environmental policy services for the benefits of environmental welfare and safety for all.

She has years of extensive experience in various areas related to the environment, including climate change, air pollution, land and waste, ecosystem, and health control strategy and policy. Prior to joining the National Assembly, she was a Vice-Chair of the Federation of Korean Public Trade Unions. She received a bachelor's and master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Pusan National University, Republic of Korea and earned PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.



**Mr. Chun Kyoo Park**  
Head  
United Nations Office for  
Sustainable Development

**Mr. Chun Kyoo Park** is the Head of the UN Office for Sustainable Development as of 26 October 2020. Before that, he has served at the government for almost 30 years mainly at the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea where he joined in 1991 starting at mid-level management rising to the rank of the Vice Minister of Environment. Throughout the experience, he has built various capacities and broadened the scope of work by engaging in many different areas of sustainable development.

Mr. Park's works range from air and water quality management to nature conservation, waste management, chemicals management, sewerage system, etc. Tackling climate change has been his major concern and produced lots of achievements at the ministry including setting up Korean National Mitigation Targets.

Moreover, his career stretches to international cooperation where he worked as the first secretary of the Republic of Korea Mission to the UN in charge of works related to the UN General Assembly 2nd Committee, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. He has attended various international meetings which include CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico as the chair of the COP12 Presidency and most recently the 4th UN Environment Assembly in 2019 in his capacity as the head of the Korean delegation. He worked closely with UN organizations to support programs such as the UNEP's PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) and the first international workshop for developing country officials on MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) jointly with UNFCCC and/or EU.

He graduated from Yonsei University majoring in Public Administration and holds a Master's degree in Development Policy and Public Administration at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is co-author of three books including "Carbon Market, Are You Ready to Buy or Sell It."



**H.E. Ambassador Mr. Toru Morikawa**  
Executive Director  
Asia-Europe Foundation

**H.E. Ambassador Mr. Toru Morikawa** (Japan) joined the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as its 8th Executive Director in August 2020. ASEF's leadership alternates between Asia and Europe every four years.

Ambassador Morikawa is a seasoned career diplomat bringing decades of experience and expertise to ASEF. His previous postings include serving as Minister, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Iran; and Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in France where he was in charge of various cultural exchange initiatives. He has also worked in the areas of Media and Regional Economic Cooperation and has experience in cultivating and enhancing partnerships for projects with different organisations including the private sector.

Ambassador Morikawa received his Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Tokyo. He is fluent in Japanese, French, and English. He is married with two children.



**Mr. Jean D'Aragon**  
Senior Sustainable Development  
Expert, UNOSD

**Dr. Jean D'Aragon** is the Senior Sustainable Development Expert at the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), where he also served as the Officer-in-Charge between April 2019 and October 2020.

He has more than 25 years of international development experience in research, policy capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation related to sustainable development in America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. Mr. Jean D'Aragon worked at the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and the UN DESA United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Nagoya, Japan linking climate change, natural disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, urban planning and governance.

Mr. D'Aragon has also been called upon to undertake assignments as Early Recovery Advisor and Early Recovery National Coordinator with UNCRD, UN-Habitat and other UN agencies such as UNDP, in various geographical contexts, including disaster-hit regions of the Philippines and Vanuatu or in Cameroon, where he developed and coordinated programs combining food security and poverty reduction with women and youth job creation and empowerment, particularly in the Far North Region of Cameroon, which is severely affected by Boko Haram's insurgency, adding to existing land use agro-pastoral conflicts and tensions exacerbated by increases in drought and flooding associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. D'Aragon worked as the Senior Programme Officer at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), leading research on the interlinkages between urban poverty reduction, livelihood and food security, access to housing, water and sanitation, solid waste management, environmental protection and resilience building, supporting their integration into territorial planning policies, codes, regulations, plans mainly in developing countries, work he had initiated in the mid-1990s in the context of immediate post-apartheid South Africa. Mr. D'Aragon also taught and lectured in different universities in Brazil, Portugal, France and in Canada, particularly at the Faculty of Engineering of McGill University, where he earned his Ph.D.



**Mr. Darren Swanson**  
Director  
Novel Futures Corporation

**Mr. Darren Swanson** is a strategic management consultant and professional engineer with over two decades of experience assisting United Nations agencies, governments, NGOs, businesses and communities with strategic foresight, integrated planning & assessment, and risk & sustainability.

He is Director of the Canadian-based consultancy, Novel Futures Corporation, and Senior Associate with the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Swanson has facilitated interactive face-to-face and virtual meetings for several United Nations agencies, including for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and for the annual Sustainable Development Transformation Forum hosted by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development from 2012 to 2017.

Darren holds a Master of Public Administration degree in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.



**Mr. Manos Antoninis**  
Director of Global Education  
Monitoring Report Team  
UNESCO

**Mr. Manos Antoninis** has been the Director of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report since 2017.

He was previously responsible for the monitoring section of the report. He coordinated the financing gap estimates for the 2030 education targets, the projections on the achievement of universal primary and secondary education completion, and the World Inequality Database on Education.

He has been representing the report team in the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators, which he is currently co-chairing.

Prior to joining the team he worked for 10 years on public finance, monitoring and evaluation projects in education including: a public expenditure tracking and service delivery survey of secondary education provision in Bangladesh; the evaluation of a basic education project in the western provinces of China; the mid-term evaluation of the Education For All Fast Track Initiative; the annual reporting of progress in the implementation of the Second Primary Education Development Project in Bangladesh; a basic education capacity building programme in six states in Nigeria; the evaluation of an in-service, cluster-based teacher training programme in Pakistan; and the country study of the Out of School Children Global Initiative in Indonesia. He holds a DPhil in Economics for a study of technical education and the labour market in Egypt, completed at the Centre for the Study of African Economies of the University of Oxford.





**Mr. Louis Meuleman**  
Committee of Experts on Public  
Administration (CEPA),  
Founder/Director, PublicStrategy  
for Sustainable Development and  
visiting professor at the Public  
Governance Institute of the  
University of Leuven, Belgium

**Dr. Louis Meuleman** is an academic and practitioner on sustainability governance, metagovernance and policy coherence and integration. He is visiting professor public governance at KU Leuven University (Belgium), member and currently vice chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA), and affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Boston (USA) and Wageningen University (Netherlands). During the last 10 years of his 40 years' public administration experience at subnational, national, European and UN level, he was policy coordinator at the European Commission (2011-2020).

Earlier he was among others director of the Dutch science-policy advisory council RMNO. He has a PhD in public administration (Public Management and the Metagovernance of Hierarchies, Networks and Markets (Springer, 2008) and an MSc in environmental biology. His latest book is Metagovernance for Sustainability (Routledge, 2018).

As co-founder of Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (ps4sd), he advises among others national governments, the European Commission, UN bodies and the OECD on SDG implementation challenges.



**Mr. Oliver Liang**  
Head, Public and Private Services  
Unit, Sectoral specialist: education,  
culture, media, sport, Sectoral  
Policies Department, International  
Labour Organization (ILO)

**Mr. Oliver Liang** is Head of the Public and Private Services Unit of the Sectoral Policies Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. This team deals with working conditions of service workers, including retail and commerce workers. Together with UNESCO, he coordinates the secretariat of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Status of Teaching Personnel and promotes standards on education and teachers. He also works on labour issues related to the health, culture and sport sectors, as well as sustainable consumption.

Mr. Liang previously served as manager of development cooperation policy at ILO, and as coordinator of the information services on international labour standards. Oliver holds a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University in the United States.



**Ms. Réka Tózsza**  
Senior Project Manager, Higher  
Education Programme, Asia-  
Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**Ms. Réka Tózsza**, a Hungarian national, joined ASEF's Education Department in 2017. Réka leads ASEF's Education Policy Programme, which includes the ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (#ARC), the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratories (#ASEFInnolabs) and ASEF's Capacity Building Trainings for higher education professionals.

Ms. Tózsza started her professional career as a government official, working on civil service training systems and on the reform of higher education policy of the Hungarian Government. She was appointed to Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy State Secretary for Higher Education and to staff member of the Hungarian EU Presidency. Prior to joining ASEF, Ms. Tózsza was the Head of International Office at the National University of Public Service (NUPS) in Hungary, responsible for international student and staff mobility, strategic partnerships, and the international branding of the university.

Ms. Tózsza obtained her first degree in Public Administration from the Corvinus University of Budapest, and her MPA degree from the National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.



**Dr Edizon Fermin**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
National Teachers College  
The Philippines

**Dr. Edizon Fermin** is the Vice President for Academic Affairs of National Teachers College. Concurrently, he is the co-chair of the Philippine Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) Technical Panel in Teacher Education and an expert resource of the Technical Working Group on Flexible Learning.

He continues to work with the British Council and the CHED International Affairs staff in developing policy and practice pathways in transnational education and adult education, especially in terms of quality assurance. A 2019 Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) training scholar at the University of Edinburgh, he is an advocate of equitable access to higher education. He has been training teachers, supervisors, and administrators in basic education, higher education, and technical-vocational education for over two decades.



**Ms. Alicia Quezada**  
Latin America Director, Practical  
Action, Peru

**Ms. Alicia Quezada** is Regional Director of Practical Action in Latin America since 2018, having previously been Head of Consulting for seven years.

Her work is oriented at the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for women and men with an inclusive approach, the improvement of schools in rural areas, resilience building, green business and renewable energies. Before joining Practical Action, she worked for Ciudadanos al Día promoting the Best Government Practices Prize in Peru. In the early years of her career, she implemented research projects about media, childhood and gender in Peru and co-authored a number of publications in those topics. She has a degree in Communications for Development from the University of Lima (Peru) and a MSc in Development Management from LSE (UK).

## Session Two: Gender Equality Tuesday 1 March 2022



**Ms. Sarah Hendriks**  
Director, Policy, Programme &  
Intergovernmental Division, UN  
Women

**Ms. Sarah Hendriks** leads the Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women - the United Nations entity dedicated to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Ms. Hendriks leads UN Women's efforts as convener of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, a transformative initiative to accelerate concrete results on the SDGs.

Ms. Hendriks has over 20 years of experience in program and policy work on gender equality with government, public sector, foundations, NGOs and research institutions. She joined UN-Women from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where she served as the Director, Gender Equality, Global Growth & Opportunity for 4 years. In her role, she successfully developed and launched the Gates Foundation's first-ever strategy on gender equality, driving new investment of \$170 million to results on women's economic empowerment. Ms. Hendriks also led the Gates Foundation's work on gender mainstreaming, supporting program strategy teams with the capacity and tools to apply a gender lens to grant-making.

Prior to this role, Ms. Hendriks worked as the Director of Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (2010-2015) at Plan International Headquarters, and as the Global Advisor on Gender Equality and HIV AIDS (2005-2009) at Plan International Canada, where she led the strategic direction across 50+ countries that drove more than 500 million euros in new resources towards innovative work on gender equality and adolescent girls' development. Ms. Hendriks served for 9 years as the Chair of the Advisory Board governing Plan's research and policy report on the 'State of the World's Girls', a global initiative that reached audiences across more than 72 countries.

Before joining Plan International, Ms. Hendriks worked for several development organizations, including Women and the Law in Southern Africa (Malawi), World Vision International (Zimbabwe) and as a gender equality consultant with Global Affairs Canada (on Gender-Based Violence), GIZ (on women's access to justice) and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (on gender mainstreaming in public sector delivery).

Ms. Hendriks was recently named as one of Apolitical's 'Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy'.

A national of Canada, Ms. Hendriks holds an M.A. in Adult Education and International Development from the University of Toronto and B.A. in International Justice and Human Rights from the McMaster University, Canada.





**Ms. Cynthia McDougall**  
Senior Research Fellow,  
Stockholm Environment Institute  
(Bangkok)

**Dr. Cynthia McDougall** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). She is currently the leader of the Gender, Environment and Development (GED) cluster in SEI Asia and is co-leading SEI's global program on Gender Equality, Social Equity and Poverty (GESEP).

Dr. McDougall is an interdisciplinary social scientist with over 20 years of experience in gender, social equity and inclusion in natural resource governance and food systems research. Since 2015, she has been spearheading and supporting the development of gender transformative approaches in and for food systems and natural resource governance, including leading the One CGIAR GENDER Platform Working Group on Gender Transformative Approaches and contributing to the UN Food Systems Summit Cluster on Gender Transformative Approaches. Dr. McDougall holds a BA Hons (Political Science and Development Studies) from Trent University in Canada, an MPhil (Geography) from Cambridge University in the UK, and a PhD (Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) from Wageningen University, The Netherlands.



**Ms. Angela Mwai**  
Chief a.i., Human Rights and Social  
Inclusion Unit, Urban Practices  
Branch, Global Solutions Division,  
UN-Habitat

**Ms. Angela Mwai** is the Chief (a.i.) of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit at UN-Habitat global headquarters in Nairobi. She is UN-Habitat's gender focal point and her responsibilities include gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in all policies, programmes and projects in UN-Habitat, raising awareness and capacity building on gender, human rights and social inclusion issues, which includes children, youth, older persons and people with disabilities, for both internal colleagues and external partners, guidelines and tool development, engaging colleagues and partners. She is responsible for ensuring gender and human rights and social inclusive responsive initiatives and interventions are considered in all areas including land rights, economic empowerment, governance, spatial planning and urban basic service provision among others. As a cross cutting thematic issues, safety and crime prevention strategies for cities under the Safer Cities programme also fall in her docket.

Ms. Mwai is also involved with other UN Agencies and partners on advocacy events on gender and women's issues in international forums around the world. In addition, she is also responsible for global reporting on all the social inclusion and cross-cutting issues which are gender, youth, human rights, children, older persons and people with disabilities, as well as other marginalised groups which include refugees, migrants and indigenous people.

Ms. Mwai has been working at UN-Habitat from 2007 where she started as a Project Finance Adviser with the Slum Upgrading Facility before taking over the gender equality, human rights and social inclusion portfolio in 2012. Prior to that, she was a seasoned banker, with 21 years' experience in financial management at various international financial institutions. Ms. Mwai holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from York University in Canada and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, USA.





**Ms. Amanda Austin**  
Head of Policy and Advocacy,  
Equal Measures 2030

**Ms. Amanda Austin** is Head of Advocacy & Partnerships for Equal Measures 2030, a collaboration of national, regional and global organisations that connect data and evidence with advocacy and action on gender equality to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. She leads cross-partnership global advocacy as well as programme partnerships with women's rights organisations across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Amanda previously worked for Oxfam, Save the Children and Plan International, and holds an MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics.



**Ms. Mrinalini Venkatachalam**  
Regional Director, Southeast Asia,  
East Asia and Oceania,  
WEConnect International

**Ms. Mrinalini Venkatachalam** is the Regional Director for South East Asia and Oceania at WEConnect International, a global nonprofit network that works with multinational corporations and multilateral organizations to generate market-access opportunities for women's business enterprises in over 125 countries through supplier diversity. The organization identifies, educates, registers, and certifies women's business enterprises based outside the U.S. that are at least 51% owned, as well as managed and controlled, by one or more women, and then connects them to qualified buyers across the globe. WEConnect International's network of corporate members, primarily Fortune 500 companies, represent over \$1 Trillion in annual purchasing power.

Over the last twelve years, Ms. Venkatachalam has engaged with large corporates, government agencies, SMEs and community organizations to provide them with a platform to create measurable social impact. She speaks regularly at community events, corporate events, and conferences about the role that gender equality plays in achieving a more sustainable world for everyone. Ms. Venkatachalam has been awarded the Singapore Women's Weekly's Great Women of Our Time award in the Public Service and Education category and has been nominated as one of Cleo Singapore's 2016 top ten Changemakers.

### Session Three: Life Below Water Wednesday 2 March 2022



**Mr. Kim Hyun-tae**  
Director General of International  
Cooperation Policy Bureau,  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries,  
Republic of Korea

**Mr. Kim Hyun-tae** is the Director General for International Cooperation Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of the Republic of Korea. He has served in the Ministry for many years, working as the Director General for Maritime Affairs & Safety Policy Bureau and Director of the International Cooperation Division. Mr. Kim holds an M.A. in Public Administration from Exeter University, UK.



**Mr. Sai S. Navoti**  
Chief, SIDS Unit,  
Division for Sustainable  
Development Goals, UN  
Department of Economic and  
Social Affairs, New York, USA

**Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti (Sai)** is the Chief of the SIDS Unit, at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Prior to his current post, Sai served as the Senior Legal Advisor with the International Seabed Authority.

He also served as Lead Negotiator for the G77 & China (2013) and Lead Climate Negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in 2012; and as a Counter Terrorism Officer for UNODC before that.

Sai served Fiji as a Military Officer, Government Lawyer, and a Diplomat. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics, a Bachelor of Law, two Post Graduate Diplomas and a Master of Science Degree.



**Hon. Mr. Andy Labonte**  
Member of the National Assembly,  
Republic of Seychelles

**Hon. Andy Labonte** was born on the 27th April 1981, has lived at English River all his life. He sees himself as a spiritual person and advocates for unity and tolerance in his everyday life, with a mindset of working together to achieve a common goal.

His forte is in the Tourism Industry, having specialized in hospitality in the Food and beverage department. He started his professional career in 2001 in the Hotel Trade after graduating from the SHTTC with Credit and title of 'Best Overall Student'. He has had the opportunity of holding Managerial positions in several Luxurious Hotel Chains in Seychelles which has given him a great understanding on how the Tourism Industry really works.

The Honorable Member even has years of experience of working with the youth from being a Peer Counselor to being the Central Regional Commissioner for Scout from 2014 to 2017. For the last decade,

Hon. Labonte has also been a taxi driver, and that profession has given him the opportunity to meet and interact with people from all different walks of life.

His journey in Politics only started about one year ago with the inspiration of making Seychelles a better place. His dream is to see all Seychellois as one family.

Hon. Labonte is a Member of the Standing Orders Committee and the House Committee.



**Mr. Yegor (Georgy) Volovik**  
Coordinator, Northwest Pacific  
Action Plan (NOWPAP), Regional  
Coordinating Unit, Ecosystems  
Integration Branch, Ecosystems  
Division, United Nations  
Environment Programme, Toyama  
City, Japan

**Dr. Yegor Volovik** brings wide-ranging knowledge and skills from more than 25 years of progressively responsible management and technical experience in marine and freshwater water resources, environment, climate change, as well as climate risk and disaster risk management.

Specific areas of expertise are ecosystem-based management, regional ocean governance, establishment and functioning of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Intergovernmental Mechanisms, MEA (e.g., the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, Northwest Pacific), integrated water resource management and planning, climate change and climate risk management, disaster risk reduction, various aspects of informational support and knowledge management.

He is a long-term UN staff member, having worked with several UN agencies (UNOPS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP) since 2002. Currently, Yegor is the Coordinator of the UNEP-administered Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). He holds a PhD from the Institute of Program Systems of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is an author/co-author of over 50 monographs and publications.





**Ms. Cornelia E. Nauen**  
President, Mundus maris –  
Sciences and Arts for  
Sustainability, Brussels

**Ms. Cornelia E. Nauen** holds a PhD in fisheries science / marine ecology from Kiel University, Germany. She worked in FAO's Fisheries Department and later served in the European Commission in development cooperation and international science cooperation. Her major interest was in sustainable management of marine resources and biodiversity with emphasis on making research results more readily accessible to citizens anywhere.

Since 2010 she heads the non profit *Mundus maris* with international membership focused on sustainable living with the ocean and supporting small-scale fisheries (SSF), the people of the sea and their cultures in multiple ways. A focus is on recovering marine ecosystems, promoting low impact fishing and ending harmful subsidies to put a meaning to sustainability and implementing the SDGs, particularly SDG 14. She currently also chairs the Board of Trustees of Quantitative Aquatics, a scientific non-profit in the Philippines hosting and developing FishBase and other publicly accessible biodiversity information systems.



**Mr. Harmen Spek**  
Innovation & Solutions Lead,  
Plastic Soup Foundation

With a background in Media & Design, **Mr. Harmen Spek** developed a great passion for materials and production. However, the start of his work at the Plastic Soup Foundation made him extremely critical about the consequences of the often cheapest and most commonly used material of all: plastic. In his role as Manager Innovations & Solutions, Harmen is trying to convince companies to change their systemic approach to the use of plastics.

Because, in production as well as in conversion, use and end-of-life phases the emission consequences of plastic are considerable.

As an expert on a wide range of plastic related subjects, Mr. Spek is involved in the many projects carried out by the Plastic Soup Foundation, with themes such as: microplastics, macroplastics, health, production and recycling, but also shortcomings of norms or standards that do not take into account the real consequences of our vast plastic production and use.

Please take a look at his [TedX-presentation](#) where he talks about the complexity of our plastic habits.

## Session Four: Life on Land and Forum Closing Thursday 3 March 2022



**Mr. Pierre Boileau**  
Head, Global Environment Outlook,  
UN Environment

**Mr. Pierre Boileau** is currently the Head of the Global Environment Outlook programme at UN Environment. In this role he has led his team to complete the sixth Global Environment Outlook (published in March, 2019) as well as 6 regional environmental assessments (May, 2016).

As part of the sixth Global Environment Outlook, Pierre's team worked closely with more than 160 experts and authors to produce the analysis contained in the publication. The findings in the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment are closely linked to pathways for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as a 'Healthy Planet for Healthy People', which is the theme of the report.

Prior to this Mr. Boileau was the Head of the International Energy Agency's Non-member country energy statistics section where he led a team of statisticians that produce IEA's global energy data publications as well as various electronic data products.



**Ms. Ingeborg Niestroy**  
Director, Project Leader, Institute  
for Advanced Sustainability Studies  
(IASS)

**INGEBORG NIESTROY** is an expert for EU sustainability policies and governance for sustainable development across Europe, including the science-policy interface. She has been with the [Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies \(IASS\) in Germany](#) since 2019 and currently leads a large EU research project on citizen participation in the European Green Deal, called [REAL DEAL](#). She has worked for more than two decades in EU affairs and internationally, in particular in the Asia – Europe link. She is co-founder of the thinktank Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (Brussels) and has lead a number of studies on governance for sustainable development, including [the recent study of the European Parliament on SDG implementation in all EU member states](#). Ingeborg is geographer and received a PhD in planning from the TU Berlin, on decision-making processes with strategic environmental assessment.

Recent studies & papers:

[Study SDG implementation in EU28 & Parliaments](#)  
[Teaching Silos to Dance: A Condition to Implement the SDGs](#)  
[Common But Differentiated Governance: Making the SDGs Work](#)



**Mr. Raphael Weyland**  
Head of Brussels Office, Nature  
And Biodiversity Conservation  
Union (NABU)

Since 2015, **Mr. Raphael Weyland** has been working as Head of Office for the German Nature Conservation Union (NABU) in Brussels. Before joining NABU, Mr. Weyland worked as a lawyer in Hamburg, focusing on environmental law. There, he was, amongst others, representing clients fighting against the deepening of the river Weser (the case went up to the Court of Justice of the European Union), or against the coal power plant in Moorburg/Hamburg. Mr. Weyland studied law in Freiburg, Sevilla and Bremen, and wrote his dissertation with Prof Felix Ekardt from the Research Unit Sustainability and Climate Policy on sustainability issues in lawmaking.



**Ms. Grażyna Pulawska**  
Acting Director, Sustainable  
Development & Public Health  
Department, Asia-Europe  
Foundation (ASEF)

**Ms. Grażyna Pulawska** joined ASEF in February 2010. She is responsible for the Asia-Europe Environment Forum programme, which aims to strengthen cooperation between Asian and European stakeholders in the field of environmental and sustainable development.

Ms. Pulawska worked for the Ministry of Economy in Poland, working in the field of regional development. She has also been active in the NGO sector, mainly with the Service Civil International network in Belgium and the Development Wheel, a Bangladesh-based NGO specialising in supporting local entrepreneurship and fair trade.

She received her Master's degree in International Relations through a joint programme between the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and the Warsaw School of Economics.



**Riko Kimoto**  
Manager for International Public  
Health, Sustainable Development &  
Public Health Department, Asia-  
Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**Ms. Riko Kimoto** joined ASEF in April 2016, and she leads ASEF Public Health Network from conceptualisation to implementation, including research, analysis, selecting topics such as AMR, creating the concept note, and generating outcomes in the form of a recommendation or policy brief paper. Prior to joining ASEF, she has gained extensive field NGO/volunteer experience in Latin America, collaborating with the local/international agencies such as Ministry of Health and UNHCR, dealing with a wide range of issues in the field of public health. Other than the Americas, she also worked in Africa as a project supervisor for hospital management. Since she has lived much of her adult life in countries other than her own including Haitian Batey (village) in rural Dominican Republic, she became very capable of adapting different cultures and lifestyles, which she enjoys a lot.

Ms. Kimoto has a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Australian Catholic University, and she is a qualified nurse with several years of clinical experience. She then obtained her Master's degree in International Public Health (MIPH) from University of Queensland. For MIPH, she conducted her research in Mexico, and her article has been published on a professional journal afterwards.





**Dr. László Pintér**  
Head, Department of  
Environmental Sciences and  
Policy, Central European University

**Dr. László Pintér** is Professor and Head of Department at the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy at Central European University - Private University (CEU PU) in Austria and Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Canada.

Dr. Pintér has been working with IISD since 1994, serving as Director of the Measurement and Assessment Program between 2003 and 2010. During his years at IISD he carried out pioneering work on sustainability indicators, sustainable development strategies and integrated assessments in the global, federal, provincial, and community contexts, often with emphasis on the natural resources sectors. He has been a regular contributor to the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), the flagship report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and for over a decade led the design and worldwide delivery of GEO's capacity building initiative. He contributed to the work of several Task Forces of the China Council, worked with a wide range of international organizations such as the OECD, the World Bank, UNDP, UN CSD, the European Environment Agency, and many leading think tanks, networks, development assistance organizations and major consulting companies.

He joined CEU in 2010, where he teaches graduate courses on sustainable development and global transitions, and adaptation and resilience in socio-ecological systems. He was involved in the process that led to the establishment of the sustainable development goals, led a 14-country study on SDG selection for the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and continues research on the SDG's governance and implementation. His more recent research focused, among others, on exploring vulnerability and adaptation associated with high-end climate change scenarios in the EU FP-7-funded IMPRESSIONS project; the potential of nature-based solutions (NBS) to re-nature cities in the Horizon 2020 funded NATURVATION project and in collaboration with the British Academy; assisting the European Environment Agency with the sustainability measurement and assessment methods of the 2025 SoE report for Europe; and the integrated assessment of climate risk to large scale hydraulic infrastructure projects in Southern Africa.

Dr. Pintér has a PhD from the University of Minnesota in the United States, a Masters in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba in Canada and a Master of Science in Agronomy from the Hungarian University of Life Sciences (MATE). He currently lives with his wife in Nemesvámos, Hungary.



**Ms. Mariaelena Huambachano**  
Professor Environmental  
Humanities and Indigenous  
Studies, Syracuse University, NY,  
USA

**Ms. Mariaelena Huambachano**, is a native Peruvian Indigenous scholar, who immigrated to Aotearoa New Zealand, at a young age, inspiring a collaborative and cross-cultural approach to her work in Indigenous food sovereignty, environmental justice, Indigenous philosophies of well-being, and Indigenous research methodologies.

She has been an Indigenous community-engaged scholar of food and environmental justice for over a decade. During this time, she has worked with Indigenous communities, grassroots organisations, and civil societies globally to restore community health and well-being. In fall 2021, she joined Syracuse University to help build the Global Indigenous Cultures and Environmental Justice Research Centre and Department from the ground up.

She is an active member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a lead author in the 16th High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (UNFAO) Report on “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”, and of a global report on the ‘values’ assessment of nature for the Intergovernmental Panel of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES).

Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and scholarly anthologies, including Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems; Sustainability; the New Zealand Journal of Ecology; The International Journal of Environmental Sustainability; The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability; Food Studies, and The Routledge Handbook of Sustainable and Regenerative Food Systems. She is currently working on her book manuscript entitled “*Recovering our Ancestors’ Foodways: Indigenous Traditions as a Recipe for Living Well*”. The book is a celebration of the lore of Quechua and Māori and of the worlds’ Indigenous peoples in safeguarding food systems, innovation, practices, and, ultimately, the well-being of humankind.



**Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi**  
Executive Director, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), Uganda

**Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi** graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from Makerere University, obtained an MA (Integrated Rural Development Planning). For a short period after her studies she held a white collar job with a bank as a credit officer before discovering that her calling was not in air-conditioned, pristine and sanitized work environments but with the people right at the grassroots getting her hands dirty. She therefore resigned her bank job and founded **Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)**, where she still serves as Executive Director.

She was democratically elected by Civil Society Organizations across the African continent to the position of Observer on the Climate Investment Fund – Forest Investment Program, Facilitator for Africa Region CSOs at UNEP, Eastern Africa CSO representative to the Committee on Food Security (CFS) and a member of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee - Sustainable Livelihoods Education Program (UNEP / UNESCO)

Ms. Kenyangi has won several prizes among which is the Wangari Maathai prize for forestry awarded by the Collaborative Forestry Partnership at FAO.

She spends her personal time either in quiet reflection or reading motivational books such as the Bible. Gertrude loves to dance to gospel tunes.



**H.E. Ambassador Mr. Léon Faber**  
Deputy Executive Director  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**H.E. Ambassador Mr. Léon Faber** joined the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as its 8th Deputy Executive Director on September 1st, 2020.

Ambassador Leon Faber is a seasoned career diplomat with nearly 30 years of experience. His previous postings include being Head of Mission, European Union Delegation to the Lao PDR; Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg; Chargé d'affaires of Luxembourg, Embassy in Hanoi. He has worked in the areas of Human Rights, Health and Humanitarian Affairs and he has more than 20 years of experience in Development Cooperation.

He received his M.A. in Sinology, Classical and Modern Chinese Philology, and European History from the University of Trèves, Germany (1989). He has studied at the University of Fudan, Shanghai (1983-85), the University of Heidelberg (1981 -83), and the University of Luxembourg (1980 -81).

Ambassador Faber has always had a great interest in intercultural dialogue that he is happy to bring into his current position.

He is married with three children.