



United Nations General Assembly
Economic and Financial (Second)
Committee



ECOSOC

Joint Meeting

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Speakers' Biographies



Dr. Michael Shank

Communications Director for the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network



Mr. Shank is the Communications Director for the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, a group of international cities committed to achieving aggressive long-term carbon reduction goals, and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a peer-to-peer network of local government professionals from cities across the US and Canada dedicated to creating a healthier environment, economic prosperity, and increased social equity. Mr. Shank's professional career includes leading press and/or policy shops at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Climate Nexus, Friends Committee on National Legislation, U.S. Congress (Mike Honda), Institute for Economics and Peace, Biodiversity Northwest, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. Mr. Shank is adjunct faculty at New York University's Center for Global Affairs, where he teaches graduate courses on Sustainable Development, Power and Politics and Climate and Security. Mr. Shank is also adjunct faculty and a board member at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, where he teaches graduate courses on Communicating Conflict. Previously, Mr. Shank worked as a columnist for the Washington Post and US News & World Report and a contributor to USA Today, CNN, The Guardian, TIME, Fast Company, MSNBC. Mr. Shank holds a Ph.D. Degree from George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and is focused on climate conflict.

H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King

President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



Ambassador Inga Rhonda King is the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2018-2019 session. Since becoming the Permanent Representative in 2013, she has held several leadership roles which include the Chair of L69 (2016-present), the largest reform group for the Security Council Reform of the UN, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (2017-2018), Chair of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (2016-2017), and immediate-past chair of the Island Women Open Network (2014-2018). Ambassador Inga Rhonda King came to diplomacy from the private sector, has lived and worked in several Caribbean countries, the United States of America, and China. She is a small business owner, business strategist, the author of three books, and a management accountant with more than two decades of professional experience. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and chemistry, is the immediate past chair of the Investment Promotions Agency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Invest SVG) since 2011, and a former Honorary Consul for Portugal to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

H.E. Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee

Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations

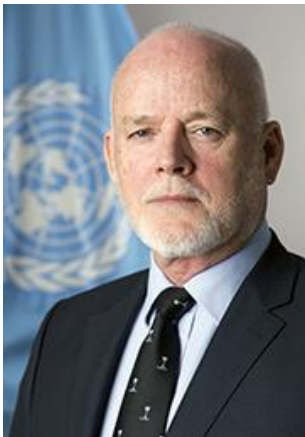


Ambassador Skinner-Klee is the Chair of the Second Committee of the 73rd General Assembly and the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations. Prior to his latest appointment as Guatemala's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in September 2016, Mr. Skinner-Klee was his country's Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Chief of Mission to the European Union from 2012. Between 2008 and 2012, he was the country's Permanent Representative to the

Organization of American States. Having joined the Guatemala Foreign Service in 1985, Mr. Skinner-Klee has held several other positions, including Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2004. He also served as Ambassador to Honduras from 2003 to 2004, Belize from 2000 to 2003, Canada from 1998 to 2000 and Germany from 1993 to 1998. He was Legal Counsellor at the Embassy of Guatemala to the United States in 1987, while serving concurrently as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Mr. Skinner-Klee holds a licentiate degree in juridical and social sciences from Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala, a master's degree in International Law from Columbia University in New York, and a diploma in International Relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Peter Thomson

Special Envoy for the Ocean of the Secretary-General of the United Nations



Mr. Thomson was appointed the Special Envoy for the Ocean by the UN Secretary-General in 2017, aiming at galvanizing concerted efforts to follow up on the outcomes of the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to that, Mr. Thomson served as the President of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2016. Mr. Thomson took office as Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in New York in 2010. He chaired the "Group of 77" in 2013 and he was President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Programme Support (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS) in 2014. Working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji Mr. Thomson was

stationed in Tokyo (1981-1984) and Australia (1984-1986), before returning to Fiji to work with the government until 1987 and subsequently moved into the private sector as a consultant. He is also a founding member of the executive committees of the Australia-Fiji Business Council and the New

Zealand-Fiji Business Council. Mr. Thomson holds degrees in political studies and development from Auckland University and Cambridge University.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA



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. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. He has served, among others, 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). 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. Jamil Ahmad

Director a.i. of United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office



Mr. Jamil Ahmad was previously Deputy Director of the New York Office, where he focused on liaising with the Permanent Missions to the UN in support of UNEP's policies and programme. From 2008 to 2014, he was the Secretary for the Governing Bodies of UNEP based in Nairobi, Kenya. A career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in many different duty stations with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs, including Acting Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP in Nairobi. He was lead negotiator of the Group of 77 and China for Climate Change

under Pakistan's chairmanship in 2007 culminating at COP13 to UNFCCC in Bali in 2007. He joined UNEP in 2008. Mr. Jamil Ahmad holds a Master Degree in Political Science.

Theme 1: Policies and platforms supporting the transition to a circular economy

Ph.D.Eng.Econ. Elena Simina Lakatos

President of the Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” (IRCEM)



Elena-Simina Lakatos is the President and Executive Director of the Center for Innovation and Organization Sustainability since 2012. She is a founding member of IRCEM and is mandated to legally represent IRCEM since its inception in September 2012. In 2011, Ms. Simina joined the Department of Management and Economic Engineering at Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and was mainly involved in the in research and teaching in the areas of Strategic Management, Business Evaluation, Marketing and International Management. Since 2014 she holds the position of Administrative and Financial Director at the Faculty of Machine Building of the Technical University of Cluj-

Napoca. Ms. Simina obtained her PhD degree in Management and Engineering in 2012 jointly from the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca and the Oulu University (Finland). Previously she obtained degrees in Business Administration from the University Babeş-Bolyai in 2007 and in Materials and Environment Engineering from the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in 2010.

ing. Kevin de Cuba, MSc.

Founder and Director of the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas (CEP-Americas)



Besides being the founder and director of the CEP-Americas since 2016, Mr. de Cuba is the Director of the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF), an official partner of Worldwatch Institute and as an official partner of McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC) an authorized representative for Cradle to Cradle® in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, he is leading the organization of the inaugural Circular Economy Forum of the Americas (CEFA). Mr. de Cuba is a Senior Fellow at Worldwatch with specific focus on the circular economy, a Circular Policies Mentor at the Circular Economy Club, and a member

of the Renewable Energy and Carbon Management Advisory Group of the Cradle to Cradle Standards Development Advisory Group at the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPPI). Mr. de Cuba served for more than a decade as Senior Energy and Sustainable Development Specialist at the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States. From 2008 to 2015, he developed and managed the U.S. Department of State funded Closed Looped Cycle Production in the Americas Program. Mr. de Cuba holds a master's degree in Sustainable Development from the Utrecht

University and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Technology from the VHL University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

Dr. Sanjeevan Bajaj

Advisor the Quality Forum of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)



Ms. Bajaj serves as an Advisor at FICCI Quality Forum since 2016, prior to which she was the Chief Executive Officer of the Forum. She is responsible for overseeing the activities of FICCI Quality Forum and FICCI's specialized division for training and consultancy. In her current role, Ms. Bajaj is also leading the FICCI Alliance for Consumer Care project on building marketplace trust and enhancing the effectiveness of consumer care practices. Before joining FICCI, Ms. Bajaj worked with Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (1998-2009), State Bank of Patiala (1980-1997) and Bank of Baroda (1977-1978). Ms. Sanjeevan holds a PhD Degree in Strategic Management from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, a Master Degree in Economics and a degree in Law.

Dr. Lawrence Chidi Anukam

Director General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) of Nigeria



Mr. Anukam is the Director General/ Chief Executive Officer of National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) since 2015. Prior to that, he was a Director in the Agency in charge of Planning and Policy Analysis. Before joining NESREA, Mr. Anukam was the Head of the Department of Programme Development and Implementation at the National Office of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in the Presidency. Mr. Anukam has served in various intergovernmental United Nations processes and initiatives. For example, he was a Research Fellow and Associate Adviser to the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Secretary-General of the

United Nation Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. Currently, Mr. Anukam is a member of the Governing Board of the Environmental Crime Programme of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). He holds a Doctorate Degree in Applied Geography (Natural Resources Management) from the Wilfrid Laurier University, a Master Degree in Environmental Pollution Control from the University of Leeds and a Bachelor Degree in Chemistry from the University of Lagos.

Theme 2: Partnerships for implementation of the circular economy

Mr. Carol Lemmens

Global Director, Global Advisory Services Leader at Arup



Mr. Lemmens leads Arup's global Advisory Services business and spearheads Arup's circular economy work since 2015. He was instrumental in developing Arup's position paper to define the circular economy in the context of the built environment. He also coordinates Arup's work as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's (EMF) knowledge partner for the built environment. Mr. Lemmens regularly contributes to Circular Economy thought pieces, presentations and interviews. For instance, he recently served as a keynote speaker at the World Steel Association's Circular Economy Conference on the subject of "Rethinking of Steel in the Circular Economy" in Brussels and as a panel member at "Accelerating the Transition: International Collaboration on a global economy agenda" in Beijing. Besides working with Arup, Mr. Lemmens works as Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Stayokay since 2014. Prior to that, he worked for Twynstra Gudde (2001-2015), TBI (2000-2001) and Nederlandse Spoorwegen ("Dutch Railways") (1996-2000). Mr. Lemmens holds a degree in Buildings Technology from the University of Applied Sciences Den Bosch (1991-1994) and a degree in Energy Technology and Systems Dynamics from the University of Applied Sciences in Holland (1986-1990).

Ms. Kate Daly

Executive Director of the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners



Ms. Daly is Executive Director of the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners since 2018. Prior to joining Closed Loop Partners, Ms. Daly served in New York City government as a Senior Vice President at the NYC Economic Development Corporation (2014-2017). At NYCEDC Kate led a team launching innovative business development programs to foster the growth of entrepreneurship, strengthen New York City's anchor and emerging industries, and create new jobs. Ms. Daly previously served as a Chief of Staff and subsequently Executive Director at New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (2002-2014), where she managed the agency's strategy, policy, communications, operations, budget, research and stakeholder engagement, and oversaw the landmark designation of more than 7,000 historic buildings. Ms. Daly currently serves as an Advisory Board Member at Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator and at M-Corps. Ms. Daly earned a

Bachelor Degree in History from Cornell University and a Master Degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania (2000-2002).

Mr. Yaya Kone

Co-founder and Communication Lead of Coliba



Mr. Kone is a co-founder and communication Lead of Coliba, a tech-based waste management startup with presence in Ivory Coast and Ghana. Prior to that, he was a content writer and PR manager at La Régionale SA Abidjan and the head of digital at FrenchTechAbidjan. Currently, Mr. Kone serves as a Board Member of the Social Media Club Abidjan. He was also a fellow at the Young African Leader Initiative in 2014. Mr. Kone holds a Master Degree in Business Administration (Sustainable Development and Operational Marketing) from ISC Paris School of Management (2012-2013) and a Master Degree in British literature from University of Caen Normandy (2007-2011).