



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

## HLPF 2021 Side Event: Climate Action and the SDGs — Closing Gaps and Strengthening Synergies

7 July 2022, 07:30–09:00 EDT

### SPEAKERS

*by order of presentation*

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#### OPENING REMARKS

##### **Mr Hiroshi Ono (Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan)**

Mr Hiroshi Ono is the Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. His previous posts include Director General of the Global Environment Bureau and Director General of the Environmental Management Bureau. Mr Ono joined the ministry in 1987 upon completing his degree at the Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo. He has also served as a Board Member for Toyama Prefecture, Japan. Mr Ono was born in Okayama, Japan.

#### FRAMING PRESENTATION

##### **Prof. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi (Director, UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability)**

Dr Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi is Director of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). Her fields of specialisation include international development and cooperation, ICT in education, reform and policy of education, science and technology policy, and the application of technology in world heritage site preservation. Prior to this post, Dr Yamaguchi worked at Tokyo Institute of Technology as an Associate Professor (2002–2006) and then full Professor (from 2006). In 2005–2007, she concurrently served as Advisor to the President. Before joining Tokyo Institute of Technology, Dr Yamaguchi worked for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), first at the Paris headquarters, and then in the Beijing Office. While with UNESCO, she was involved primarily in the development of education systems in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Dr Yamaguchi holds a PhD in Economics of Education from Columbia University (New York). She has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and conference/seminar presentations.

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#### KEYNOTE SPEECH

##### **Dr Gabriela Iacobuta (Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability)**

Dr Gabriela Iacobuta is a researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability within the Environmental Governance programme and the Klimalog Project ([klimalog.die-gdi.de](http://klimalog.die-gdi.de)). The focus of her work is on adoption and stringency of domestic climate change mitigation policies and measures around the world and the potential impacts of these policies and measures on other Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Iacobuta is currently pursuing a PhD at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, on the same research topic. She holds two master's degrees from Wageningen University, MSc in Environmental Science and MSc in Climate Studies with a focus on Environmental Economics and Environmental Systems Analysis, respectively.

#### PANEL FACILITATOR

##### **Dr Shen Xiaomeng (UNU Vice-Rector in Europe and Director, UNU Institute for Environment & Human Security)**

Dr Shen Xiaomeng is the UNU Vice-Rector in Europe (UNU-ViE) and Director of the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). Before she rejoined UNU in 2020, she had worked with the then International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the DLR-PT (German Aerospace Center) for 10 years focusing on international cooperation, innovation policies, and multilateral science and technology development in Asia and Oceania. Prior to that, Dr Shen worked with UNU-EHS with a focus on social vulnerability, environmentally induced migration issues and water-related disaster and risk research from cultural perspectives.

## PANELLISTS

### **Dr Minoru Takada (Team Leader, Sustainable Energy, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs)**

Dr Takada spearheads DESA's efforts in reviewing, following up and implementing SDG7 on energy, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to this position, Dr Takada was the Team Leader for Sustainable Energy for All at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at UN.

Previously, he was Head of the Sustainable Energy Programme at UNDP and worked in Africa as a community organizer for several years. He holds a PhD in renewable energy applications from the University of Mie in Japan, and a Master's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Hokkaido, Japan.

### **Dr Sergey Kononov (Manager, Department for Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC Secretariat)**

Dr Sergey Kononov, a Russian national, is a manager in the Department for Programmes Coordination of the UNFCCC secretariat. He has been with the United Nations since 1998, including about 20 years of service to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Dr Kononov has been managing multiple key activities of the secretariat, in particular those relating to international negotiations, such as negotiations on the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and the related methodological modalities for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol (2011-2015) as well as negotiations on the operational rules and modalities for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (2016-2019). More recently, in 2020-2021, Dr Kononov was in charge of coordinating the work of the UNFCCC secretariat relating to nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

At present, Dr Kononov is engaged in the coordination of substantive work of the secretariat in the Programmes Coordination Department of the UNFCCC. Dr Kononov graduated from the Power Engineering Institute (Moscow, Russia) in 1981, and he holds a PhD in nuclear engineering.

### **Prof. Bartel Van de Walle (Director, UNU-MERIT)**

Prof. Bartel Van de Walle is a Professor of Policy Analysis. Before joining UNU-MERIT he was Head of the Department of Multi-Actor Systems in the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management at the Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands. He has also held faculty positions at Tilburg University, the Netherlands and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA and was a researcher at the Nuclear Research Centre SCK-CEN, Belgium. He was previously a senior fellow with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, USA, and has worked extensively with humanitarian organisations, most notably the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Prof. Van de Walle holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Ghent, Belgium (1996). He has authored around 150 peer-reviewed papers in international journals and proceedings of international conferences on issues related to information systems, decision-making and policy analysis, often in the context of humanitarian response.

### **Dr Melissa Goodall (Senior Director, Penn Environmental Innovations Initiative, University of Pennsylvania)**

Dr Melissa Brown Goodall joined the Environmental Innovations Initiative in 2021 as its inaugural Senior Director. In this role, she is developing a strategic vision to leverage Penn's academic strengths and foster collaboration across disciplines to address the most pressing global environmental challenges of our time. Before coming to Penn, Dr Goodall was at Yale University – first with the School of the Environment, then with the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, and finally with the Office of Sustainability. Dr Goodall is the Director of the [Global University Climate Forum](#) and a Strategic Advisor to the [Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Boston](#). She earned her PhD in Environmental Studies in 2015 and a joint degree in Resource Management and Administration in 1998 from Antioch University and her BFA in Acting from New York University in 1992.

### **Dr Erick Gankam Tambo (Academic Officer, UNU-EHS)**

Dr Erick Tambo leads the Pan African Cooperation and Educational Technologies (PACET) programme at UNU-EHS. From September 2017 until June 2021, he was seconded from UNU-EHS to Pan African University (PAUWES) as Research Coordinator in the frame of the BMBF-funded project "Water and Energy Security in Africa (WESA)". Dr Tambo holds a PhD in Computer Sciences and led a research group on ICT4D at the Fern Universität in Hagen-Germany prior to joining UNU. He has broad expertise in endogenous technologies and local innovation, entrepreneurial education, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa, and research management and educational technologies. Dr Tambo has supervised several graduate students researching the nexus between energy and digitalization/innovation in Africa. Over the last five years, he has won multiple collaborative funding grants addressing a diverse range of topics including water, energy, food, climate change, innovation, and digitalisation.

### **Dr Junko Akagi (Research Manager, Kitakyushu Urban Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)**

Dr Junko Akagi joined the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) as research manager in 2013. She conducts projects and research on sustainable cities in Japan and abroad, with a focus on zero-carbon cities. In particular, she is engaged in promoting stakeholder engagement for local actions in Japan and international city-to-city collaboration programme for realizing zero-carbon cities. Before she joined the IGES, she worked at the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Office of Japan as a UNFCCC accredited GHG inventory expert. Dr Akagi received a doctorate in Natural Sciences from the Technical University of Munich through working at the then GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, Germany.