



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

*Environmental, social and economic development that meets the needs of the present  
without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

~ *“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”* ~

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## Climate Change: On the Road to Paris & Beyond: Friday, October 30th, 2015



**Ms. Rachel Kyte, World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change. Ms. Kyte will become Special Representative of the Secretary-General and CEO for Sustainable Energy for All as of January 1st, 2016.** She is a leading advocate for action to combat climate change because of its intrinsic link to poverty and development, Ms. Kyte is the leading figure for the World Bank Group in efforts to campaign for an ambitious agreement at the 21<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Parties of the UNFCCC this December. She is leading work on climate change adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, and disaster risk and resilience across the institutions of the World Bank Group, including IBRD, IDA, IFC and MIGA. Her team is focused on ensuring that all Bank Group operations integrate climate change and take into account the opportunities presented by inclusive green growth. The group is also an advocate for global climate action. Ms. Kyte previously served as World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development and was the International Finance Corporation Vice President for Business Advisory Services and a member of IFC's management team. She is professor of practice in sustainable development at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She holds a master's degree in international relations from Tufts University, and a bachelor's degree in history and politics from the University of London.



**Mr. Dan Shepard, Leads the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team.** He was the point person on sustainability issues for the UN Department of Public Information, and has been involved on communications for sustainable development for the UN at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and Rio+20. He supported the UN system's efforts on climate change since the Bali Conference in 2007. Climate change, biodiversity loss, food security, livable cities and water—all issues that involve economics, quality of life, and the environment—are among these issues that he deals with. From Bali through the preparations for the Paris Climate Conference, he has worked to promote the UN's efforts to address climate change and he has coordinated a UN interagency group that works on climate-related communications issues. In addition to his work on sustainability issues, he has also worked, in his ten years with DPI, on a range of topics ranging from the adoption of the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the problem of overfishing. He has also served as editor of the United Nations Development Programme magazine, CHOICES, and also, for UNDP, worked on advocacy issues that included small arms and the rebuilding effort that followed the 2004 tsunami.



**Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Secretary for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment in the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN Environmental Programme.** Mr. Ahmad is the focal point of UNEP's external relations. He directs, manages and coordinates the work of the Secretariat and leads the organization of the sessions of GC/GMEF and the meetings of the CPR. The 12th special session of the GC/GMEF will be held from 20-22 February 2012 in Nairobi. As the Secretary to the governing bodies, Mr. Ahmad provides support to the President of the Governing Council and the Chair of the CPR to ensure smooth organization and efficient conduct of meetings. In addition, he often represents the Executive Director at meetings with senior government officials with a view to promote and support UNEP's policies and programme. He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in a number of different duty stations with rich experience of multilateral negotiations, including Acting Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome (2007-08) and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP in Nairobi

(2001-05). In addition he participated in numerous important UN and other intergovernmental meetings, including WSSD in 2002, sessions of the UNGA, the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) and GC/GMEF of UNEP. He was lead negotiator of the Group of 77 & China for Climate Change under Pakistan's chairmanship in 2007 culminating at COP13 to UNFCCC in Bali in 2007. He was joined UNEP in November 2008. As the Secretary to the governing bodies, Mr. Ahmad provides support to the President of the Governing Council and the Chair of the CPR to ensure smooth organization and efficient conduct of meetings. In addition, he often represents the Executive Director at meetings with senior government officials with a view to promote and support UNEP's policies and programme. Mr. Ahmad holds a Master's Degree in Political Science.



**Professor Jan W. Dash is the NGOCS D Lead Adviser on Climate Change and Managing Editor of the Climate Portal website for the Unitarian Universalist UN Office.** He is the Editor of the Climate Statement: Summary and Recommendations to Governments of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, delivered to leaders at the Copenhagen climate conference and updated yearly. He is a Matchmaker for the Climate Science Rapid Response Team providing scientific responses to media questions. He is the author of the “one-liner” responses to climate contrarian fallacies. Mr. Dash has worked for years in risk management and wrote a book about it. The 2nd edition will contain a chapter on Climate Risk Management. Mr. Dash is an Adjunct Professor at the Courant Institute NYU and is a research scholar at Fordham University. He has a PhD in physics, was Director de Research at the Centre de Physique Theorize in Marseille France, and has published over 50 scientific papers.



**Mr. Roberto Borrero, Indigenous Leader; UN Programs Coordinator, International Indian Treaty Council.** Mr. Borrero is an internationally renowned and respected member of the indigenous Taino community of the Caribbean. He has a long history in cultural, environmental, and human rights advocacy working at the local, national, and international level. Roberto is currently the chair of the NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and a global organizing partner focal point representing the International Indian Treaty Council for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group. Roberto also has extensive experience working with non-profit and for-profit entities such as PBS; BBC; the American Museum of Natural History; the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian; El Museo de Barrio; the Institute for American Indian Studies; Aveda Corporation; Natural Resources Stewardship Circle; Este Lauder; and Tribal Link Foundation. Roberto works in collaboration with numerous agencies and specialized programs. such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous

Issues; United Nations Development Program; United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development; UNICEF; UN Convention on Biological Diversity; UN Environmental Programme; the UN Global Compact; and UNESCO. He has a degree in Communications from American Public University, a Certificate for “Working in Contemporary Native Nations” from UCLA, and in 2013 he received an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Humanities from Kaya University in Kampala, Uganda.

## Climate Change: On the Road to Paris & Beyond: Friday, October 30th, 2015 (continued)



**Ms. Eleanor Blomstrom, Program Director/ Head of Office, Women Environment & Development Organization.** As Program Director at WEDO, Ms. Blomstrom manages internal and external relationships and partnerships, including with staff, funders and coalition and project partners. She works closely with program staff in strategic development, implementation and monitoring of WEDO programs and projects. With a particular focus on sustainable development, climate change and urbanization, her work incorporates research, capacity building, and global-level advocacy at multiple UN fora, including the UNFCCC and related to the post-2015 development agenda. Supporting WEDO's long-standing role of facilitating space for women's organizing and action, she represents WEDO as organizing partner of the Women's Major Groups for Sustainable Development and for Disaster Risk Reduction. Prior to WEDO, she worked on climate change projects ranging from green roofs to waste management to adaptation, and on community development projects in the areas of agriculture and women's empowerment in Nicaragua and Nigeria. Her current work is informed by a professional background in bilingual elementary education with a focus on race and gender equity in public schools. Ms Blomstrom holds a Masters in International Affairs in Urban and Environmental Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences.



**Ms. Natalia Vega-Berry, Founder and CEO of The Global Brain and Executive Director of The People+Planet Project.** The Global Brain was launched on April 11, 2014, during the Media 4 Social Impact Summit at the United Nations. Ms. Vega-Berry is currently supporting the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General's Post-2015 Development Agenda and Climate Change Support Team, through the development of a global campaign "The People + Planet Project" (P+PP) to foster the UN Sustainable Development Goals and new Climate Agreements post-2015. Her professional life started when she was a 16-year-old intern at Ogilvy. She earned a degree in mass communications and continued to develop her career in communications and marketing working for agencies like Publicis, Grey, and BBDO, while establishing her career as an executive producer. She lived in the advertising world for about 25 years, receiving awards and recognitions from The Clio, New York Festival and FIAP, among others. She worked for brands, managing and supervising projects for companies including Verizon, Anheuser-Busch/Budweiser, Miller Coors Brewing Company, Procter and Gamble, Splenda, Unilever, Allstate Insurance, Bally Total Fitness, Sears, Honda Motors, Toyota, Pepsi and Walmart. In 2009, she shifted her focus toward purpose-driven work. She decided to dive deeply into her life-long passion, environmental and social issues. This led her to earn an MA in global sustainability from UCLA, which then empowered her to combine my experience in the creative industries with her core passion and knowledge for building a more sustainable world and create The Global Brain, a creative-innovation agency headquartered in Boulder, CO. Ms. Vega-Berry recently assisted with bringing Oprah Winfrey and her OWN screening of "Belief" to the UN.



**Mr. Juan Elias Chebly, Lead Adviser, to the UN Environment Programmes' Secretariat of Governing Bodies; Founder and CEO of voipebox.com.** He is a PHD Candidate in Sustainable Development at Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela. He holds a BS in management, a minor in International Business, and a Finance MBA degree from St. John's University in Queens NY. Mr. Chebly completed his studies with honors at St. John's in 2009. At age 24, he became St. John's Tobin College of Business youngest Adjunct Professor during Fall 2010. He taught Foundations of Finance and was among the top ranked professors by students. In 2009 he founded Voipebox.com, a telecom startup introducing innovative and pioneering VOIP telephony solutions in South America and the US.



**Ms. Kehkashan Basu, NGOCS 15 year old Youth Adviser on Climate Change and Founder of Green Hope,** a youth organization which seeks to provide a networking platform to children and youth in the region to carry forward the Rio+20 legacy through several environmental workshops and ground level projects on biodiversity conservation, waste segregation and reversing land degradation. Ms. Basu has been spreading the message of peace and sustainability since she was only 8 years old working tirelessly to enlist the support of children and youth across geographical boundaries. In 2013 at the age of 12, she was elected for a 2 year term, as UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme) Global Coordinator for Children & Youth and a member of its Major Groups Facilitating Committee making her *the youngest person and the first minor, ever, to be elected into this position in the history of UNEP.* Her internationally acclaimed work on sustainability has resulted in her appointment as the Youth Ambassador of World Future Council, Global Advisory Council member of Young Men 4 Gender Equality, the 2013-2014 Global President of the Children's Board for Plant-for-the-Planet, the Chairperson of the United Arab Emirates chapter of the International Youth Council and a Global Youth Ambassador for A World At School to promote the cause of global education. In her role as the voice of children and youth, she has spoken at over 45 United Nations and other international summits, traveling to over 20 countries.



**Ms. Harriet Shugarman, Founder & Executive Director, of ClimateMama, Climate Educator & Mentor, the Climate Reality Project,** an organization working to educate and inspire and families to understand climate change and empower them to take tangible steps to build a healthy world for their themselves and future generations. Previously, she has worked as a policy analyst and economist with the Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario governments in Canada, and later with the International Monetary Fund as the Special Assistant to the Director of the United Nations Office in New York. In 2007, Ms. Shugarman was selected to participate in a training program led by Former Vice President Al Gore and sponsored by The Climate Reality Project to educate the public about the climate crisis. She continues to serve as mentor and leader for the Climate Reality Project. She is the Chair of her town's Environmental Commission and Green Team, she teaches Climate Change Policy at a liberal arts college, and writes on climate change policy for a wide variety of publications including MSNBC, Health Child Health World, and Modern Parenthood. She serves on the board of the Mothers Project, the Barack Obama Green Charter High School, and Air-Soil-Water, as well as on the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network's US Women's Climate Justice Initiative Steering Committee. In 2011, she was one of 1,253 people arrested in Washington to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline. Harriet works to connect local grassroots groups and amplify the battles against pipelines and fossil fuel infrastructure and for renewable energy options.