



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

*In Support of the United Nations & Communities Globally*

*“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”*

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

## An Interactive Dialogue on the New Urban Agenda for “World Cities Day”

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 3PM to 5PM ~ Boss Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor of the CCUN



**H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission 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 Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. (UN Photo: Mr. Evan Schneider)



**Mr. Filiep Decorte, Acting Director & the Officer-in-Charge, New York Liaison Office, UN-Habitat.** Previously, Mr. Decorte was Deputy Director and the focal point for UN-Habitat’s crisis-related work in New York. He played a key role in developing an urban track towards the World Humanitarian Summit and the emerging Global Alliance for Urban Crises. During his career, Mr. Decorte has predominantly focused on urban initiatives in conflict- and crisis-affected countries, specializing in urban planning, land, and housing issues. He has worked for UN-Habitat for more than fifteen years in different capacities, including long-term assignments in Haiti, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, and Morocco. He also acted as coordinator for UN-Habitat’s Global Disaster Management Program. He was trained as a civil engineer, architect, and urban and regional planner with advanced master’s degrees from the

Universities of Ghent and Leuven in Belgium.



**Ms. Janice Peterson, Chair of the Board, Huairou Commission, New York, USA.** A visionary and pioneer in community development, Ms. Peterson is the founder of numerous national, global and local organizations. A champion of grassroots women around the globe, she is the creator of a Leadership Support Process to facilitate grassroots women’s leadership. Supporting the knowledge and contributions of grassroots women, Ms. Peterson led the national Institute for Women and Community Development and the Neighborhood Women College Program. Nationally, she founded the National Congress of Neighborhood Women, and globally, she played a founding role in GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission. She has taught at the Adelphi University School of Social Work, Pratt Institute, LaGuardia Community College and the New School. Under the Carter administration, she worked as the Associate

Director in the White House Office of Public Liaison, as well as the Office of Policy and Planning and Action with Peace Corps and Vista. In 2009, she was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor for four decades of commitment to improving grassroots women’s lives globally. In addition to raising more than USD 4 million for work with grassroots women, she has supported highly innovative initiatives, such as the Grassroots Academies, held at each World Urban Forum, and the Local to Local Dialogue Process.

[Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 3PM to 5PM \(cont'd\)](#)



**Dr. Eugénie L. Birch FAICP, RTPI (hon), Chair of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign, and President, of the General Assembly of Partners.** Dr. Birch holds the Nussdorf Chair for Urban Research, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania where she chairs the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning. Founding co-director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, she is also co-editor of Penn Press's *The City in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* series and co-editor of the *SSRN Urban ejournal*. Dr. Birch's most recent publications include *Slums: How the Informal Real Estate Markets Work* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) and "A Midterm Report: Will Habitat III Make a Difference to the World's Urban Development?" *Journal of the American Planning Association* (82:4 2016 398-411) In New York City, Dr. Birch has served as a member of the New York City Planning Commission, and on the jury to select the designers for the World Trade Center site. She has also served as a member of the US delegation to Habitat III. Dr. Birch, who lives in New York City, holds a PhD and Master degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

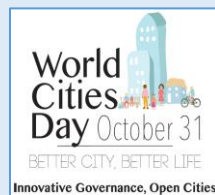


**Ms. Soon-Young Yoon, Chair of the Board for Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), First Vice-President of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) and UN Representative for the International Alliance of Women.** Ms. Yoon is the Immediate Past Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY. In those capacities, she helps to organize the world's women in support of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. In 1995, she served as the UN Liaison for the NGO Forum held in parallel with the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, an event that hosted more than 30,000 NGO participants. Ms. Yoon is a board member of the Global Advisory Council at the Harvard AIDS Initiative and the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University. A former columnist for the EarthTimes newspaper, she works as senior advisor/consultant for the World Health Organization. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan and earned a certificate in computer graphics from Pratt Institute of Art. Ms. Yoon's Linked-in profile says "I work for the UN and sometimes I get paid."



**Dr. Katherine Kline, Co-Chair of the General Assembly of Partner's Older Persons Partner Constituent Group.** Dr. Kline is a former diplomat, arts administrator, ESL teacher and documentary producer and distributor, has worked for over 40 years with and for international organizations. She has been on numerous non-profit boards including UNA-NY and as part of the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing, New York. She has served for more than six years as a United Nations volunteer NGO representative working to secure rights for older persons. She received a B.A. in India Areas Studies from the School of International Service, American University and a Ph.D. in Organizational Change from the Union Institute.

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