



Speaker biographies

Keynote Presenter

Yamide Dagnet

Ms. Yamide Dagnet is a Senior Associate for the World Resources Institute (WRI) and leads WRI's research, analysis and stakeholder engagement regarding UNFCCC negotiations and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

She works also part-time for the NDC Partnership as a Senior Country Specialist and is currently responsible for liaising with Mali, and Saint-Lucia and Grenada. Through the NDC Partnership, she aspires to bridge the national with the international to make the Paris Agreement a reality.

These two hats enable Ms. Dagnet to work with various partners, harnessing the outcome and output of various projects and programs and collaborating with institutions and a wide range of stakeholders around the world.

She brings 13 years of experience, including working for the UK and French governments in safeguarding environmental assets, as a policy lead and negotiator on UNFCCC measurement, reporting and verification framework, as manager of the UK greenhouse Gas inventory, the UK Deputy Focal Point for the IPCC, reviewer under the UNFCCC of countries' national communications, France's Focal point for the EU neighborhood policy and twinning program and UK representative for European standardization process for chemicals in contact with drinking water.

Ms. Dagnet holds a Master in Engineering from the University of Technology of Compiègne (France), with a minor in European studies and specialization in environment, security and quality insurance.

Panelists

Mahawan Karuniasa

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) was established in 2015 and has 12 members. Mr. Mahawan Karuniasa is a member of PCCB, as a representative of Asia-Pacific region, since the first meeting of the PCCB in 2017.

In 2017, he was also assigned as a delegation of the Republic of Indonesia to participate in COP 23, especially on capacity-building issues. In 2017-2018, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia appointed him to lead and conduct capacity gaps and needs assessment and producing the initial document of Indonesia Capacity Building and Technology Needs Assessment (CBTNA). In addition, some significant contributions to climate change policies and programs in Indonesia include policy paper of Indonesia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation which is currently implemented as the National Strategy of Indonesia's NDC Implementation.

Born in 1966, he is currently a lecturer at the University of Indonesia, has a bachelor degree in Forestry from Gadjah Mada University and is holder of a Doctoral Degree in Environmental Science from University of Indonesia. In addition to teaching activities, Mr. Mahawan Karuniasa with his 27 years of working experiences, is also actively contributing to various programs and activities of climate change

and sustainable development with government, private sectors, and communities, as well as various international, national and subnational institutions.

As a Chairman of Indonesia's network of experts on climate change and forestry, Mr. Mahawan Karuniasa, together with his colleagues continue to encourage stakeholders to raise awareness and ownership on facing the climate change issues, also to remind the urgency of enhancing capacity.

Tara Shine

Dr Tara Shine is Special Adviser to the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. She specialises in climate change, environment and development issues with an international profile gained through 20 years' experience advising leaders, governments, multilateral agencies and civil society. Dr Shine is an established thought leader in the field of climate justice and equitable solutions to climate change. She has participated in the climate negotiations since 2003 first as an EU negotiator and later in the lead up to COP 21 with the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, championing the inclusion of human rights and gender equality in Paris Agreement. Dr Shine holds a BSc in Environmental Science and a PhD in Geography from the University of Ulster. She has contributed to research, policy and teaching in countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an indigenous woman from Mbororo pastoralist community of Chad. She is a Coordinator of the Peul Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad (AFPAT) “Association des Femmes Peules et peuples Autochtones du Tchad”.

She is also Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and coordinator of the world indigenous peoples' initiative and pavilion for COP21, COP22 and COP23. Ms. Oumarou Ibrahim is a member of the Executive committee of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), with a background in indigenous peoples' rights and environment protection through the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification) with multiple responsibilities. Furthermore, she is a member of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for SDGs (IPMG-SDGs), a member of Réseau Climat & Développement and REDD+ RPP Chad National committee, and Co-Chair of the Pan-African Alliance Climate Justice (PACJA).

Miriam Hinostroza

Ms. Miriam Hinostroza (PhD), is an environmental economist with a PhD in Energy and Climate. She has more than 20 years of experience working with sustainable development. Her work is focused on the interactions between energy and climate change through the lenses of science and policy-making. Currently she leads work on low carbon development, through research, capacity development, knowledge management and mitigation policy advisory.

Panel moderator

Ari Huhtala

Mr. Ari Huhtala is an economist from Finland and he has spent most of his life in development work, first in the field of industrial development and technology/investment promotion and then specializing in environmental and climate financing issues. His experience includes UNDP in Hanoi and Dhaka, UNIDO headquarters in Vienna and Representative in Bangkok, manager for cleaner production financing at UNEP Paris, environmental advisor to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Team Leader for a KfW environmental credit line in Indonesia, cluster leader for climate finance at the Environment Department of the World Bank in Washington DC, and Deputy CEO for Policy and Programmes of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) in London.

Mr. Huhtala is currently supporting various climate initiatives as Senior Consultant, including the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building of the UNFCCC.

Discussion leaders

Matti Nummelin

Mr. Matti Nummelin is a Senior Environmental Adviser at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Since 2006, he has been a member of the delegation of Finland in UNFCCC negotiations, and since 2011, he has also negotiated for the EU under the UNFCCC. Mr. Nummelin has also served as Co-Chair of the UNFCCC Paris Committee on Capacity Building since 2016.

Prior to this, he was, inter alia, Co-facilitator of the UNFCCC Interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism of Loss and Damage in 2014 and Chair of OECD/DAC/ENVIRONET from 2015 to 2017. In the course of his career, Mr. Nummelin also held various positions in academia and has worked extensively in developing countries, including on assignment with UNDP.

Benjamin Schachter

Mr. Benjamin Schachter is a human rights officer and the focal point for climate change and environment at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Prior to joining OHCHR, he worked as an attorney in the United States and a research assistant to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples at the University of Arizona. He studied environmental, international, and human rights law at the University of Arizona, NYU and the National University of Singapore.

His current work focuses on the human rights impacts of climate change and other forms of environmental degradation and the corresponding obligations of States. Mr. Schachter has coordinated and led OHCHR's delegation to the UNFCCC since 2015, organized Human Rights Council panel discussions on climate change in each of the last three years and prepared the related Human Rights Council reports including an analytical study on climate change and its impacts on the enjoyment of the human right to health (A/HRC/32/23), one on climate change and its impacts on the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child (A/HRC/35/13), and one on climate change and the rights of migrants (A/HRC/38/21).

Michael Comstock

Mr. Michael Comstock is a Climate Change Technical Specialist with UNDP's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Support Programme, which provides capacity-building support to developing countries on NDCs and related issues.

As technical focal point for NDCs, he provides support to developing countries on climate change and contributes to guidance and knowledge products on NDC implementation. Mr. Comstock is responsible for managing UNDP's series of NDC Regional Dialogues, organized in partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat, to build capacity and exchange national experiences on NDC design and implementation.

Prior to joining UNDP in 2014, he was the Senior Manager of International Climate Dialogue at the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP). In his five years at CCAP, he helped launch a technical support initiative on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), trained government officials on NAMA design, worked with UNFCCC negotiators to advance international climate negotiations, and led CCAP's engagement with the Green Climate Fund and NAMA Facility.