

The Impacts of AI, Microplastics & Circular Economies on Climate Change & Our Communities

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 1pm - 2:30pm, EDT



Mr. Jamil Ahmad is Director, UN Environment Programme, New York Office. He leads work on sustainable development and the environment in support of the organization's policies and programme. A passionate advocate of sustainability, he regularly engages with governments, academia, industry and speaks to official delegations, students, civil society, and others about environment, climate change and sustainable development. He publishes regularly on climate change and environmental issues. He has been representing the UN Environment in international events. He joined UN Environment in 2008 as the Secretary of the Governing Bodies based in Nairobi, Kenya (2008-14). He led the organization of the sessions of the Governing Bodies and served as the focal point of UN Environment's external relations. A senior career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad entered the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in several duty stations across Asia, Europe and Africa with rich experience of multilateral affairs and sustainable development. He participated in numerous important UN and other intergovernmental meetings, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Commission of Sustainable Development and the Governing Councils of

UNEP, UN HABITAT and Food and Agriculture Organization. He was the lead negotiator on Climate Change for the Group of 77 & China, representing more than 130 member countries in climate change talks in 2007 under UNFCCC. Mr. Jamil Ahmad holds a master's degree in Political Science. His interests include photography, walking in the countryside, and reading. He is married and has two sons.



Mr. Richard A Roehrl, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Roehrl is a physicist, economist and policy analyst. He is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer and team leader at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs where he is responsible for science, technology, and infrastructure issues. He works towards strengthening the science-policy interface which has led to the creation of a number of new UN entry points for science and technology stakeholders in support of the aspirations of the SDGs. In particular, he co-initiated and led the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the UN Global Sustainable Development Report, among others. Mr. Roehrl has advised governments, supported negotiations, and engaged with science communities on a wide range of issues. He has led research and assessments on sustainable development, frontier technologies, infrastructures, energy, climate, transport, and scenario analysis. He also leads analytical work on science & technology futures and the broader impacts of emerging science and technologies. Mr. Roehrl received his education from the universities of Munich, Oxford, London, and Erlangen-Nuremberg.



Ms. Adriana Zacarias Farah, Head and Global Coordinator, of "Global Opportunities for SDGs" (GO4SDGs), at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Economy Division in Nairobi. She joined UNEP in 2003 and is an international expert on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and resource efficiency. From 2014 to August 2020 she was the Regional Coordinator of Resource Efficiency, at UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama, where she supported the design and implementation of strategies and policies on resource efficiency, green economy and SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean; and building new initiatives and partnerships with governments, private sector and NGOs. She is promoting the idea that the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns/systems and circular economy approaches provide new economic opportunities for development, as well as the opportunity to leapfrog to sustainability. Adriana is also the Deputy Head of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production ([10YFP](#)), which is an intergovernmental mandate adopted in Rio+20. Previously, she worked 13 years at UNEP's Economy Division in Paris, France. Before joining UNEP, Adriana was a consultant at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where she

coordinated the publication on "Towards Sustainable Household Consumption" (OECD, 2002). Adriana has experience in environment policy development and negotiations at both national and international levels. She worked as policy adviser at the Mexican Low Chamber (1999) and as Project Co-ordinator at the Mexican Ministry of Environment (1994-98). Adriana has also worked with research institutes on projects related to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Adriana has extensive experience in the NGO sector, with an emphasis on facilitating youth environmental organisations. She co-founded the UNEP Youth Advisory Council in 1999 (today TUNZA), and founded some other youth-based NGOs addressing environmental and sustainable development issues. Adriana has a Masters in Environment and Development from Cambridge University, UK, and a degree in Political Science from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)



Mr. Joshua Lincoln, (Phd), Senior Fellow, Centre for International Law and Governance The Fletcher School, Tufts University.

Joshua Lincoln (PhD) is currently a Senior Fellow with the Centre for International Law and Governance at the Fletcher School of global affairs, Tufts University. Drawing on twenty-five years of experience across four continents, he also serves as a senior advisor to heads of government and organizations, is an executive director of the Global Governance Forum and sits on the advisory board of the Cambrian Futures Group. His current work focuses on issues related to global governance, sustainability and the Net Zero transition, including fluctuating multipolarity and pluralism in geopolitics and international institutions, and the global governance implications of the Net Zero shift. In that context, he has been involved in the intergovernmental negotiations on the first global plastics treaty, and its connection to the wider decarbonization agenda of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. In 2023 he attended INC2, INC3 and COP28 as part of this work. From 2013 to 2019 he served as Secretary-General of the Bahá'í International Community. Based

at the Bahá'í World Centre, he represented the international governing council of the Bahá'í community in its external affairs. Between 2000 and 2013 he worked for the United Nations Secretariat, primarily on global peace and security issues, including as a senior officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in New York, as chief of staff to the Director-General in Geneva, and in multiple field postings in Africa. He holds degrees from Georgetown University and Tufts University in international politics, law and organizations. He will focus on "The Global Plastics Treaty: implications of the negotiations for communities and sustainability."



Mr. Francois Rogers, Executive Director of Blue Planet Alliance.

Francois is passionate about the environment, has been Executive Director of Blue Planet Alliance (BPA) since its inception in 2020. BPA is working to end the use of carbon-based fuel. Francois was born in New York City to a Dutch-Indonesian family and was raised and educated in Japan and the Philippines. The family eventually settled in Hawaii, where he has lived for decades, and where he has been an integral player in climate and energy issues for the Aloha State. He was part of the original Blue Planet Foundation team in 2007, the local nonprofit organization based in Hawaii that is best known for its role in passing a 100% renewable-energy mandate by 2045, making Hawaii the first state in the United States to set such an ambitious goal. During his involvement from 2006-2020, he served as the Special Projects Director where he was directly involved in developing education programs, ideating community-based solutions, and executing operational logistics. In 2020, he helped launch Blue Planet Foundation's sister organization, Blue Planet Alliance, which is driving climate ambition

across island nations and territories in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Atlantic Oceans. BPA's game-changing idea is its Fellowship program, which is poised to bring representatives of 50 islands to Hawaii over the next three years and help put each on its own path to 100% renewable energy, creating momentum that can catalyze a global transition to renewable energy by shaping policies, empowering youth, and providing pathways to community-based solutions. Francois began his career working in the travel industry with the Asia-Pacific Market. During his time working at the largest Japanese wholesale-travel company from 1988-2005, he specialized in destination marketing and management, which involved planning and organizing citywide conventions, multi-nation annual festivals, and promoting the educational tour market, all while promoting Hawaii as the #1 destination. He is a fluent speaker of Japanese and Tagalog, and lives in Hawaii with his family



Ms. Eirin Husabø, Marine Biologist, Associate Expert, Waste and Marine Litter at GRID-Arendal.

Eirin has specialised in plastic pollution at GRID-Arendal, a renowned environmental communication centre committed to transform environmental data into innovative, science-based information products. With a background in marine ecology and ecotoxicology, Eirin is devoted to understanding how human activities, particularly plastic waste, affect the environment and communities. Eirin's work at GRID-Arendal encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, from assessing the distribution and abundance of plastic debris in marine environments to investigating its ecological and socioeconomic consequences. Her work not only explores the immediate effects of plastic pollution on marine life but also delves into its long-term implications for climate change mitigation and adaptations, with a special highlight to her recent contribution to the report "Climate Impacts of Plastics". Through interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders, Eirin actively contributes to the development of innovative solutions, for mitigating plastic pollution

and its associated environmental risks. Her expertise enables her to effectively communicate scientific findings to diverse audiences, empowering decision-makers and communities to take informed action.



Ms. Lirone Glikman, Founder and CEO of The Human Factor by LG. Ms. Glikman leads her global business development and speaking consultancy firm and she is regarded as an international keynote speaker, and travels the world doing so. Ms. Glikman specializes in supporting cutting-edge startups from Israel and abroad to enter global markets. She is working with various sectors such as smart cities, sustainability, and impact among others, and has been leading deals with some of the world's global corporations and governments. She is recognized as an international speaker in networking and business development; she has spoken on prestigious international panels and stages, corporations and notable universities. Among her clients are Google, Microsoft, eBay, Cornell University, Tel Aviv University and more. She is also an active member of global foreign ambassadors and innovation attache forums. Ms. Glikman is an Honorary Adviser at the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and a Founding Board Member at the

non-profit SDG Relief Fund. Ms. Glikman shared her values as a contributor for award-winning media outlets, including "Entrepreneur magazine", "The Huffington Post", "Fintech TV" and "Calcalist" publications. For more info visit: www.lironeglikman.com



Mr. Tomer Bar, Advisor for the SDG Relief Fund. Tomer is a highly accomplished professional known for his strategic vision, team leadership, and data-driven decision-making. With a wealth of experience in the consumer-packaged goods and medical device industries, he has become an expert in driving sustainable business growth while making a positive impact on the environment and society. In his role as a volunteer advisor for the SDG Relief Fund, a nonprofit organization, Tomer Bar has demonstrated his strategic prowess by spearheading initiatives that align directly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a strong focus on sustainability and social welfare. Previously, as the General Manager for North America at an AI SaaS start-up, Tomer Bar led transformative initiatives that empowered thousands of individuals who are blind, visually impaired, and affected by dyslexia and ADHD. By developing and distributing AI-powered medical devices for visual aid, he significantly improved their quality of life, health, and overall well-being. Additionally, these initiatives opened doors to improved educational attainment and

expanded employment opportunities for those individuals, fostering greater inclusivity and empowerment within society. Tomer's extensive experience at renowned companies underscores his dedication to sustainable business practices. As a Vice President of Sales & Strategy, he executed go-to-market strategies aligned with sustainable development goals, driving substantial sales growth and market share gains while prioritizing ethical business practices and responsible consumption. With an entrepreneurial mindset and a steadfast dedication to excellence, Tomer Bar is a strong advocate for driving business growth and innovation in harmony with the SDGs. Through his strategic leadership, he continues to champion meaningful contributions to address global challenges and advance sustainable development on a global scale.



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the

annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



Ms. Julia Sora Wykoff, a Freshman at Indiana University Kelley School of Business, the Founder of Zeal Cares, an NGOCS-D-NY Youth Rep. to the UN Dept. of Global Communications and a Co-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council. Through Julia's leadership Zeal Cares produces and sells all-natural lip balms and for every lip balm that is purchased, another lip balm is gifted to a child or young adult with cancer to help alleviate their dry skin during chemotherapy treatment. Zeal Cares, currently partners with more than 30 hospitals and organizations in 18 states. Julia is passionate about supporting and improving the lives of the pediatric and AYA (adolescent and young adult) oncology community. As a Freshman at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, she is double majoring in Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation and Business Analytics. Julia is proud to be an NGOCS-D-NY Honorary Adviser since she was 12yo and she has brought Zeal Cares to NGOCS-D-NY panel discussions with UN Ambassadors, UN officials and experts on the SDGs. Now Julia is a NGOCS-D-NY Youth Representative to the

UN Department of Global Communications and Co-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council with her focus on the building intergenerational partnerships supporting youth engagement at the UN and the UN Summit of the Future.



Mr. Zachary Digout, International Studies Student, University of Saskatchewan, in Canada. Zachary is a student at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, where he is pursuing a B.A. degree majoring in International Studies with a minor in Political Science and a Global Studies certificate. His academic interests include post-conflict reconstruction, community-based sustainable development initiatives, accountability feedback loops, and the role of civil society organizations in these fields. Much of his previous work has been in affiliation with non-profit organizations centered around positive youth development. This work focused on the empowerment of young people to enact meaningful change in their own communities through the development of important personal and professional skills as engaged citizens. Zachary is an alum of The Washington Center in Washington, D.C. and has previously attended the ECOSOC Youth Forum at the United Nations as both a representative of YMCA Canada and as an independent participant. He continues to expand his understanding of international sustainable development efforts by engaging in

meaningful research and diplomacy work with other passionate individuals to create long-lasting, sustainable solutions to pressing global issues. Zachary understands the urgent need for action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and looks forward to combining the positive youth development practices from his previous non-profit work with the knowledge and skills he has gained through his education at the University of Saskatchewan to help empower current and future generations of young changemakers. Zachary is a NGOCS-D-NY Honorary Advisor and a member of the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Leadership Council.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family and Convener of NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum. In addition, Margo is a Sustainable Development Strategic Consultant connecting stakeholders from all sectors and regions with the SDGs. She is a Member of the Coalition for the UN We Need and a Co-Founder of the Habitat Civil Society Working Group. Margo is proud that NGOCS-D-NY has Special Consultative Status with the UN Council of Economic and Social Affairs and Association with the UN Dept. of Global Communications. She passionately champions all of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG17 on Building Partnerships. She believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investments in innovative solutions in the SDGs. Margo is an Artist and Designer having worked behind the scenes on numerous TV, Film and Theatre productions.

She actively strives to have the voices of all stakeholders globally included in the dialogues within the UN community to support the success with the UN Summit of the Future and the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to "Leave No One Behind." Margo was honored to receive the Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Our Team: NGOCS-D-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Global Partnerships Forum, Baha'i International Community, SDG Relief Fund, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, Blue Planet Alliance, RecycleGO, United Cities & Local Governments, IBTK Foundation, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, Education Leadership Development Council, Soroptimist International, IAAI GloCha, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, UNA USA COO.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"
<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>