

Speaker Biographies

Marcos Orellana



Marcos A. Orellana is the Director of CIEL's (Centre for International Environmental Law) Human Rights and Environment Program. Prior to joining CIEL, Dr. Orellana was a Fellow to the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law of the University of Cambridge, UK. He also was a visiting scholar with the Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC. Previously, Dr. Orellana was Instructor Professor of international law at the Universidad de Talca, Chile and a consultant to various international governmental and non-governmental organizations. He has also provided legal counsel to the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on international environmental issues, and in that capacity has joined official delegations to meetings of select MEAs.

Ibrahim Thiaw



Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw is the Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Following the decision of Rio +20 to strengthen and upgrade UNEP, Mr. Thiaw continues to play a critical role in the implementation of UNEP's mandate and its Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work, as well as catalyzing UNEP's political engagement with governments and intergovernmental processes on the first and further sessions of the United Nations Environmental Assembly. Mr. Thiaw's role also includes advancing the on-going internal performance and reform agenda. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Executive Director Mr. Thiaw served as the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). As Director for DEPI, Mr. Thiaw was responsible for conceptualizing and managing UNEP's activities in two of its core thematic areas of focus - ecosystem management and services and conflicts and disasters.

Jiri Hlavacek



Jiri Hlavacek took on his responsibility as Secretary of the Governing Bodies in UNEP on 1 February 2014 and had served as Deputy Director of the Division of Regional Cooperation until October 2013 to then become Chief of the Regional Support Office. Jiri worked with the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in (1996-2011) in key senior positions, including as the Director General for International Relations and Deputy Minister for International Environmental Affairs and Sustainable Development Agenda. He played an instrumental role in establishing the Government Council for Sustainable Development (2003) and the National Strategy of Sustainable Development in the Czech Republic (2004). Internationally, Jiri was elected to numerous leadership positions in governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies, including of the Conferences of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Environment Policy Committee of OECD and UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Previously, Jiri worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1982-1996), having been assigned to posts in Tanzania, Somalia and finally in Kenya, where he served as the Head of the Embassy and the Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat. Jiri is the author and co-author of many articles on issues ranging from sustainable development to African history and politics, e.g. “Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production of the Czech Republic”, “The Czech Republic and Africa”, “International Environmental Law and Environment Protection”, “The Environment for Europe process: Successes and Challenges”

Alexander Juras



Alexander Juras, previously the Deputy Director of UNEP's Division for GEF Coordination is currently the Chief of UNEP's Major Group and Stakeholder Branch that is in charge of enhancing engagement and collaboration of UNEP with Major Groups actors who share the same purpose around the world, involving them at the policy level to take into account their expertise and views, and on the programmatic level in implementation of UNEP's work program. Before joining UNEP, he worked as a research fellow at the Bonn based Institute for European Environmental Policy, then for many years as the Deputy Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and as the Deputy Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, located in Kazakhstan.

Besides organizational management, his work focused on civil society development and multi stakeholder involvement in environmental matters, environmental information, development and administration of grants programs for various stakeholders and regional and global environmental cooperation.

Achim Steiner



Acting on the nomination of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UN General Assembly in 2006 unanimously elected Achim Steiner as the Executive Director of UNEP. On the proposal of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Achim Steiner was re-elected as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for another four-year term. The Secretary-General also appointed Mr. Steiner as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), where he served from March 2009 to May 2011.

Before joining UNEP, Mr. Steiner served as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 2001 to 2006, and prior to that as Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams. He worked both at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development.

Mr. Steiner also chairs two UN system wide entities including HLCP - High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and EMG - United Nations Environment Management Group.

Elizabeth Mrema



Elizabeth Mrema has worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for almost two decades. From July 2009 to January 2013 she was the Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Acting Executive Secretary of the UNEP/ASCOBANS and Interim Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Gorilla Agreement all based in Bonn, Germany. Since January 2013 she has been the Deputy Director and Coordinator, Operations and Programme Delivery Branch in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) and was recently appointed as Director to the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions in UNEP.

Previously, Elizabeth's work at UNEP had focused on the development, implementation and enforcement environmental laws both at national, regional and international level. She has played different roles in UNEP over the years which include being a Coordinator of capacity building and compliance and enforcement projects related to environmental law and the multilateral environmental conventions. She had been a Senior Legal Officer and Chief of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Support and Cooperation Branch in the then Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC). Then a Senior Legal Officer and later Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Biodiversity/Land Law and Governance Branch in the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC).

Daniel Magraw



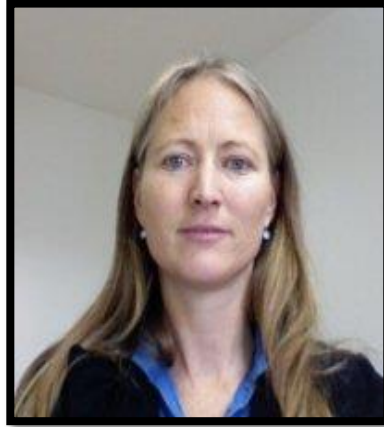
Mr. Daniel Magraw is a leading expert on international environmental law and policy, a fellow and Professorial Lecturer at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Mr. Magraw was the President and CEO of CIEL from 2002-2010. He has extensive experience in international law, institutions, processes and policies, particularly relating to environmental protection and human rights, including having worked in government, non-governmental organization (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations, business, and academia. Dan has served as an MGFC member representing the NGOs for some years. He was a member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (TEPAC), chairs the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of International Law's Task Force on Magna Carta and serves as a consultant to the United Nations. He was a former member of the U.S. Department of State Study Group on International Business Transactions.

Maryam Nyamir-Fuller



Maryam Nyamir- Fuller is currently the Special Advisor to the Executive Director on Post 2015 and Sustainable Development Goals. She was formerly the Director of the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF) of UNEP. She brings to UNEP 27 years of experience in the technical areas of sustainable rural development and environmental management in Africa, West Asian, Asia and Latin American, including work with USAID, several UN agencies and International NGOs. Maryam also has seven years of experience with the GEF, and since 2003, as Principal Technical Advisor for UNDP's GEF Unit in the Focal Area of Land Degradation, and head of the Sustainable Land Management Team.

Sascha Gabizon



Sascha Gabizon is the Executive Director of WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future. In 1994 she joined WECF to prepare the contribution to the 4th World Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. Since 1996 she has been the executive director of the WECF network, which she developed and its international activities with a special focus on the EU, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Currently there are 3 management offices (Netherlands, Germany, France), serving as secretariats for the network activities. Sascha Gabizon worked for an international consultancy in Spain and then joined the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Energy and Environment (WI), in Germany, where she was the co-founder of the Wuppertal Institute's "FrauenWissen" (Women's Scientists).

Neville Ash



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