

Biographies of speakers and panelists to the 14th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-14)

16-17 February 2013, Nairobi, Kenya

Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



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 for a four-year term. He became the fifth Executive Director in UNEP's history. At its 83rd plenary meeting in 2010, the UN General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, re-elected Mr. Achim Steiner 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. UNON provides the administrative, conference, security and logistics services to the UN family in Kenya, hosts offices and projects of more than 60 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, and over 5,000 staff.

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. His professional career has included assignments with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in different parts of the world including India, Pakistan, Germany, Zimbabwe, USA, Vietnam, South Africa, Switzerland and Kenya. 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, a German and Brazilian national, was born in Brazil in 1961. His educational background includes a BA from the University of Oxford as well as an MA from the University of London with specialization in development economics, regional planning, and international development and environment policy. He also studied at the German Development Institute in Berlin as well as the Harvard Business School.

Amina Mohamed: UNEP Deputy Executive Director and Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations



Ms. Amina Mohamed, a Kenyan national, joined UNEP as the Deputy Executive Director in July 2011, following her appointment by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Before joining UNEP, Ms. Mohamed served as the Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. Under Ms. Mohamed's leadership, the Ministry of Justice implemented political, legal and constitutional reforms following the elections in 2007. In 2010, the new Constitution of Kenya was promulgated under her Ministry's guidance and stewardship.

Before her appointment in 2006 as Permanent Secretary, Ms. Mohamed was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and other International Organizations, including WTO, in Geneva, Switzerland from 2000 to 2006. As Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Ms. Mohamed was twice elected as Chair of the African Group of the Whole in Geneva and, during her tenure, played a large number of critical roles in intergovernmental and multilateral negotiations. Ms. Mohamed was elected as Chair of the General Council of WTO in 2005, the first woman elected to the position.

Ms. Mohamed has throughout her career served her country as a distinguished public and Foreign Service Officer. As an international lawyer and accomplished diplomat with profound experience in environment and sustainable development policy setting, Ms. Mohamed also has a demonstrated track-record in intergovernmental negotiations. She has been recognized internationally for successfully leading international and national policy processes and for having assumed leadership roles working in complex and multi-cultural environments. As a diplomat and policy maker, she has been instrumental in advancing the environmental and sustainable development agenda at the national and international level. She is strategic and visionary, combined with a profound dedication to management, reform and the transformation of organizations. She has extensive knowledge of the UN-system - including serving at Kenya's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York for four years.

Ms. Mohamed's current role is to further advance the implementation of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy and Programme as well as on-going internal management reform. She will also play a critical role in further catalysing UNEP's political engagement with key governments and intergovernmental processes in particular RIO+20 summit in 2012 and support efforts to enhance the funding base of the Organization.

Amina J. Mohammed, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning



Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria is the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning.

Ms. Mohammed was previously Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals after serving three Presidents over a period of six years. In 2005 she was charged with the coordination of the debt relief funds (\$1 billion per annum) towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. From 2002-2005, Ms. Mohammed served as coordinator of the Task Force on Gender and Education for the United Nations Millennium Project. She was also a member of the SG's Global Sustainability Panel. Her brief intervention will focus on 'working towards a single and cohesive Post 2015 sustainable development agenda' and will

touch on the essential contribution of major groups and other stakeholders.

MGS Speakers and Facilitators

Anabella Rosemberg, Policy Officer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)



Policy Officer on Environment and Occupational Health and Safety of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC), Anabella Rosemberg has co-ordinated the international trade union movement's input to major environmental intergovernmental processes, notably the UNFCCC, since 2007.

She also acts as a liaison contact point between ILO Green Jobs Initiative, UNEP's Green Economy work and the trade union movement. Anabella Rosemberg is co-ordinating the work of the trade union movement in preparation for the RIO+20 Summit.

Born in 1980, in the Argentinean Patagonia, she holds a Masters Degree in Development Studies, Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris. Before joining the ITUC/TUAC, she worked for non-governmental organisations, in the areas of democracy and human rights.

Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye, Founder and National President, Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace & Development (NDWPD)



Ms. Usikpedo-Omoniye founded this NGO in 2005 with the vision to empower the Niger Delta women and the most vulnerable people in the region. She has steadfastly worked to carry the message of her organization to global arenas and has reached out internationally to connect with other anti-poverty,

Women's Human rights, environmental and women's organizations and networks. Consequently, NDWPD achieved Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC. Caroline mobilized in 2008-2012 for the GCAP Stand Up Take Action Campaign Days, International Day of Climate Action, and the United Nations Human Rights Day in the Niger Delta.

Caroline has participated in ongoing global debates on gender, climate change and environment and will continue to share the Niger Delta cases with the world in hopes of raising awareness.

She has actively fought for Gender Equality, Women Inclusion in Decision making and Women's Rights and Empowerment at rural areas, in Nigeria. Through the Niger Delta Women Resource Centre, Caroline has trained over 300 women and girls in skills and vocations of choice in 2010 and 2012.

Due to her achievement, Caroline was awarded with Special Recognition Award by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC).

Based on her track record and success stories of fighting for Women's human rights and Gender Equality, on December 10, 2011, she was appointed Ambassador of Goodwill for Women Empowerment in Nigeria by the International Human Rights Commission. She is presently a Diplomat of the IHRC.

Daniel Magraw, President Emeritus at the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Distinguished Scholar



Daniel Magraw is a Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and President Emeritus at the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). 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 organizations (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations, business, and academia.

Professor Magraw was President and Chief Executive Officer of CIEL from January 2002 to September 2010, during which time he also worked on substantive projects, including climate change, international financial institutions, toxic chemicals, oceans, democratizing international dispute settlement, trade and environment, and the law of foreign investment. He continues to work on substantive matters at CIEL as President Emeritus. He represents India in an arbitration brought by Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty, was for many years a member of the U.S. government's Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC), chairs the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of International Law's Task Force on Magna Carta, serves as a consultant to the United Nations, and is on the Board of Directors of Lightbridge Corporation, a publicly traded company.

From 1992-2001, Professor Magraw was Director of the International Environmental Law Office at the U.S. EPA. Initially a political appointee, he became a career member of the Senior Executive Service. He served on scores of United States delegations to international negotiations and other meetings. While on leave from his international environmental law position at EPA, he co-chaired a White House

assessment of the regulation of genetically engineered organisms (5/00-1/01) and served as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of International Activities (1/01-8/01).

Professor Magraw teaches international environmental law and policy at SAIS. From 1983-92, he was Professor of Law at the University of Colorado, where he was the faculty initiator of the Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law & Policy. He was a Visiting Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in 1989. He organized international conferences on international pollution, global change, and international watercourses at the Universities of Virginia and Colorado. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley and Georgetown University Law Center.

Professor Magraw worked as an economist and business consultant in India as a Peace Corps Volunteer (1968-72), where he helped develop and manage the largest (over 600 employees) and most successful co-operative of its type in India. He stayed for a third year at the request of the Tamil Nadu state government to conduct a marketing survey of rural areas. He practiced international law, constitutional law, and bankruptcy law at Covington & Burling in Washington, DC from 1978-83, during which time he spent six months practicing poverty law at the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. He also worked on pro bono cases with the American Civil Liberties Union and League of Women Voters.

Professor Magraw has lectured extensively in the United States and abroad on a wide variety of international law topics, and he has written books and articles on many international law subjects, including international environmental law, women's human rights, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, international trade and the environment, sustainable development, accountability in international dispute settlement, and philosophy and environmental protection. He also has been active – often in a leadership capacity -- in a wide variety of professional organizations, including the ABA, American Law Institute, American Society of International Law, International Law Association, and Inter-American Bar Association. He is the recipient of many awards, including the ABA's Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy, the District of Columbia Bar Association's Public Service Award for International Law, the United Nations Association National Capital Area's Louis Sohn Award for Human Rights, and the Elizabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law (Stockholm University and International Council of Environmental Law).

Mr. Magraw has a J.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley (1976), where he was Editor-in-Chief of the California Law Review and a founder of the Berkeley Law Foundation (an NGO that funds law projects serving under-privileged and under-represented people and communities). He has a B.A. with high honors in Economics from Harvard University (1968), where he was student body president, a volunteer worker in a housing project, a varsity letter-winning swimmer, and on the stage crew of the Loeb Drama Center. He studied music in India (the veena) and at the University of Minnesota (music theory).

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Senior Advisor, Stakeholders Forum



Jan-Gustav had his debut with the UN and the environment in the 1970s through the Stockholm Conference for Environment in 1972 and has stayed with this arena ever since, worked on disseminating information on and teaching about UN issues during the 80s and early 90s, has followed and worked with the UN Commission for Sustainable Development since 1997, when he that year, was a liaison officer between the UN and the NGO

community at the UN headquarters in New York. After his first assignments for the UN in Latin America in the 70's, Jan-Gustav has worked and lived in Botswana, Uganda, the US and Sweden in addition to Norway.

He has extensive NGO experience developed through three decades in almost all continents in the world, speaks several languages and has lectured and given workshops all over the world on the UN, governance, the environment and sustainable development, evaluated projects and organisations, advised governments on relations with civil society, chaired UN meetings and facilitated UN processes, translated several books from English to Norwegian and authored two books and numerous articles on the environment and sustainable development.

He serves on a global civil society committee for UNEP and is presently the global UN CSD NGO Co-Organising Partner coordinating global NGO input into the UN CSD process and into preparatory process for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be organised in 2012 in Brazil. Jan-Gustav joined Stakeholder Forum in London in 2011. He is also operating as a free-lance adviser, Jan-Gustav is part time employed by the Brussels-based, international NGO, ANPED, as their Policy Adviser, advises on CSR issues for a private sector think tank in Norway, but works out of his home outside Oslo, Norway, when he is not travelling the world, writing, lecturing or otherwise working abroad on environment, governance and sustainability issues while observing and writing on political behaviour.

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau



Jeremy Wates is the Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau, Europe's largest federation of environmental organizations comprising more than 140 member organizations from some 30 European countries with a combined membership of around fifteen million environmentally concerned citizens.

Prior to taking up his present post in May 2011, Jeremy served for more than a decade as Secretary to the Aarhus Convention with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The Aarhus Convention is the world's most far-reaching international treaty on access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters.

During the 1990s, Jeremy led the campaign by the European ECO Forum, an NGO coalition, to persuade governments to start work on a treaty on environmental democracy and then coordinated the input from civil society organizations into the official negotiations over the text of what was to become the Aarhus Convention.

In the 1980s, Jeremy founded the Irish environmental organization Earthwatch, the Irish member of Friends of the Earth International, and led the organization for more than a decade.

Jeremy holds an MA Honours Degree in Philosophy and Social & Political Sciences from Cambridge University, UK. His permanent home is in West Cork in the south-west of Ireland where in the '80s and '90s he combined his environmental activism with small-scale organic farming. He and his wife Sandra have four children.

In 2011, Jeremy was awarded the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kehkashan Basu, Global Coordinator for UNEP's Major Groups for Children and Youth



Kehkashan Basu is a 12 year old environmental and social activist living in the United Arab Emirates whose sole objective is to involve and mobilise children and youth in the movement for a sustainable and green future. Born on 5th June which is also World Environment Day, she feels that it was pre-ordained that she should grow up to be an eco-warrior. Spreading the message of peace and sustainability has been her passion since she was only 8 years old and she has worked tirelessly to enlist the support of children and youth across geographical boundaries.

She has been elected as the Global Coordinator for UNEP's Major Groups for Children and Youth and is the first minor to hold this position.

She was the youngest participating international delegate at Rio+20 held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While in Rio, she won a global award from UNCCD and she was the only child to be a part of a UN press conference there, held to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification.

At Rio+20, she conducted several workshops on sustainability and also launched the first Asia Pacific Youth Water Summit. She was chosen by UNCCD MGCY to be the voice of the children and youth at several forums and reached out to the children of Rio's favelas slums) to integrate them in the march towards sustainability.

As a member of the Arab Youth for Climate Movement, she attended the Conference of Youth (COY8) and also COP18, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Doha, Qatar and she was the youngest panelist at a side event of this conference where she spoke on sustainability. In addition to the above, her work as a youth ambassador has seen her participating in over a dozen international conferences, notable amongst which have been Eye on Earth summit, World Future Energy Summit, COP11 - CBD and the Asia Pacific TUNZA conference. Her work on environmental advocacy won her a prize from the Korea Green Foundation and she was invited to give a presentation at the 2012 Global Youth for Environment Forum held in Seoul, Korea.

Kehkashan is the founder of a youth organization, GREEN HOPE UAE, which seeks to provide a networking platform to children and youth in the region to carry forward the Rio legacy.

She is a Climate Justice Ambassador for Plant-for-the-Planet and in her role as the Academy Coordinator conducted the first Plant-for-the-Planet in the UAE which inducted scores of school children and culminated in the planting of 64 saplings in one day.

She also holds positions such as Regional Ambassador of TUNZA Ecogeneration, Country Coordinator of TARUMITRA & GREEN The GENE. She is an active member of UNEP, United Nations Major Groups for Children & Youth (UNCCD MGCY) and the Emirates Environmental Group. She is currently the Chairperson of the UAE chapter of the International Youth Council.

She has actively pursued a number of ground level projects on the environment and biodiversity conservation. She plants a tree on every birthday as a symbol of her solidarity to the green cause. She has planted over a hundred saplings in the UAE, Indonesia, Kenya and Brazil.

Kehkashan works towards being the change for a better future and believes in the words of Mark Twain "Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first".

Lalanath De Silva, The Access Initiative/ World Resources Institute (WRI)



Lalanath De Silva was a public interest litigator and advocate for over two decades. Pioneering the growth of public interest law in the area of the environment, he appeared in many of Sri Lanka's leading environmental cases on behalf of victims, communities and non-governmental organizations. He also worked for the Government of Sri Lanka for two years as the Legal Consultant to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. During that time he was responsible for drafting and enacting the bulk of Sri Lanka's environmental regulatory provisions. From 2002-2005 he served as a Legal Officer in the Environmental Claims Unit of the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in Geneva. Together with a small group of international lawyers, he helped process the largest war reparations claims handled by the UNCC to monitor, assess, restore and compensate for environmental damage resulting from the 1991 Gulf War.

Lalanath joined the World Resources Institute (WRI) in 2005 as the Director of The Access Initiative (TAI) (www.accessinitiative.org). Since then he has been focusing on helping over 150 civil society groups in over 40 countries assess the status of access to information, public participation and access to justice in their countries. Through these assessments, civil society partners identify gaps in access laws, practices and institutions and undertake activities that will change the situation on the ground. Lalanath qualified as a lawyer from the Sri Lanka Law College and has a Master of Laws degree from the Law School, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Luc Lavrysen, Judge, Belgian Constitutional Court and President, EU Forum Judges for the Environment



Doctor in Law of the Ghent University, has done extensive work on environmental law in a changing institutional context and on the development of environmental law from a public law perspective.

Prof. Lavrysen was a Legal Secretary at the Court of Arbitration (now Constitutional Court), Brussels, and a State Councillor, before becoming in 2001 a Judge at the Constitutional Court of Belgium.

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