

## Moderator

### John E Scanlon AO, former Secretary-General of CITES, CEO, Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation & Chair, UK Government Challenge Fund



John Scanlon AO has worked for national and international organisations across multiple continents and disciplines. He started his career as an environmental lawyer in Australia, and later served as an adviser to State and Federal Environment Ministers and as CEO of the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Scanlon served as Principal Adviser on Policy and Programme at UNEP from 2007-2010, and as Secretary-General of CITES from 2010-2018. He was the first Special Envoy for African Parks from 2018-2020.

Mr. Scanlon now serves as CEO of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) Foundation, the secretariat for 21 African countries with common policies on elephant conservation and oversaw the launch of the EPI Foundation's Vision 2030. In mid-2020, he also became Chair of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, and was appointed as Chair of the UK Government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. In 2019, Mr. Scanlon was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to wildlife conservation and protection through roles with international organisations.

## Part 2

### Adnan Amin, former Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency and Senior Fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center



Adnan Amin is an experienced international official and development economist specializing in sustainable development with over 20 years' experience in senior positions at the United Nations. He is also a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center where he works on the Geopolitics of Energy Project. He has been recently appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations as a member of his High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change in September 2020, and is also serving on several Advisory Boards both in the private sector and within academia.

Mr. Amin led a distinguished career serving the United Nations. He served as Head of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Secretariat, the UN Secretary-General's policy coordination body comprising the Executive Heads of the UN System. He was also the Director of the UNEP New York Office and led the Secretariat supporting the Intergovernmental review of International Environmental Governance established to review and streamline the proliferation of institutional frameworks within the United Nations.

## Adil Najam, Dean, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University



Adil Najam served on The Asia Foundation's Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2021. Mr. Najam is the dean of the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. He was formerly Vice Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and a globally recognized authority on international environment and development policy. He has served as the Frederick S. Pardee Professor of Global Public Policy and the Director of the Pardee Centre for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University (2007-11) and prior to that as Associate Professor of International Negotiation and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (2002-07).

Mr. Najam is a past winner of MIT's Goodwin Medal for Effective Teaching, the Fletcher School Paddock Teaching Award, the Stein Rokan Award of the International Political Science Association, and was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence). He was amongst the authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessments. Mr. Najam is a Trustee of WWF-International, serves on the Governing Council of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and was nominated by the United Nations Secretary General to serve on the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

## Arthur Dahl, President, International Environment Forum



Arthur Dahl is President of the International Environment Forum, and a retired Deputy Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Coordinator of the UN System-wide Earthwatch, with 50 years' international experience in environment and sustainability. His most recent focus has been on global governance and UN reform.

Mr. Dahl has been a consultant to the World Bank on indicators of development, Visiting Professor at the University of Brighton (UK) and Senior Advisor to its project on values-based indicators of education for sustainable development, and Co-coordinator of the UNEP Major Groups & Stakeholders Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance.

He represented the Baha'i International Community at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, was in the secretariat for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, as well as UN Climate Change Conferences COP15 (Copenhagen 2009), COP21 (Paris 2015), and virtually in COP26 (Glasgow 2021).

## Joan Carling, Environment and Indigenous Rights Defender



Joan Carling is an indigenous rights activist and environmental defender from the Philippines. She has been defending land rights from grassroots to international levels for more than 20 years. Her main concerns include protection of land rights of indigenous peoples, ensuring environment protection and sustainable development of natural resources and upholding the rights of indigenous peoples. She has actively participated in global processes to defend these concerns, including those related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and REDD+.

Ms. Carling has twice served as the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Chairperson of the Cordillera People's Alliance. She was an indigenous expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues between 2014 and 2016. Ms Carling was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award as Champion of the Earth by the UN Environment in 2018 in recognition to her work on environment and human rights protection. She is the co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the Sustainable Development Goals and also the Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI).

### Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE



Paola Deda is currently the Director of the Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. She has more than 20 years of work experience with the United Nations where she held different positions including at UNECE as Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and Head of the Housing and Land Management Unit, at the UNEP Environment Management Group, at the Secretariats of two UNEP Biodiversity Conventions in Montreal and Bonn and at the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs in New York (Division for Sustainable Development). Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Deda worked as visiting researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and the University of California at Berkeley. Paola is an architect and holds a PhD in territorial/environmental planning.

## Discussants Part 2

### Benjamin Schachter, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR



Benjamin Schachter is a Human Rights Officer and the leader of the Environment and Climate Change Team at OHCHR. Prior to joining OHCHR, he worked as an attorney in the United States and as a Research Assistant to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples at the University of Arizona.

His current work focuses on advancing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and raising awareness of 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 delegations to the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC and its support to Human Rights Council resolutions on climate change since 2015. This work has addressed issues like climate change and its impacts on the human right to health, the rights of the child, the rights of migrants, the rights of older persons, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of women and girls.

### Zinta Zommers, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Anticipatory Financing, OCHA



Zinta Zommers is a Humanitarian Affairs Officer, working in Anticipatory Financing at OCHA. She was a Lead Author of the Fourth Global Environment Outlook Report as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Land and Food Security and is an author of the IPCC's forthcoming Sixth Assessment Synthesis Report. Ms. Zommers has worked with the United Nations in a variety of capacities – in Kenya with UN Environment, in Germany with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and in Sierra

Leone with the Food and Agriculture Organization. In 2015 she joined the UN Secretary General's Climate Change Support Team, supporting the negotiation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Ms. Zommers has a M.Phil. in Development Studies and a D.Phil. in Zoology from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes scholar. She has authored two books on early warning systems and adaptation to climate change and is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

### Felipe Gómez Gallo, President, Student Platform for Engineering Education Development (SPEED)



Felipe Gómez Gallo is a Master's student in Environmental Engineering and holds degrees as an Environmental and Civil Engineer with complementary studies in Biodiversity from Universidad de los Andes. His areas of expertise include youth meaningful engagement, SDGs, Engineering Education, and climate change mitigation & adaptation. He has gained experience in leadership with multicultural and multidisciplinary teams for the past 5+ years.

Mr. Gallo is also an advocate for Mental Health and Diversity in STEM education given by his personal journey as a student. He is currently a member of YOUNGO, the youth constituency to the UNFCCC, engaged in the Action for Climate Empowerment working group and a member of UNEP MGCY, the youth constituency to UNEP, engaged in the Capacity Building, LAC, and Policy Coordination working groups. He currently holds the positions of President of the SPEED, and Vice President for Student Affairs of the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES).

### Sara Cognuck González, Climate Activist from Costa Rica, UNICEF Consultant



Sara Cognuck González is a Natural Resources Manager working on making the production processes, or the use of some resources, more sustainable and less harmful to the environment.

She has developed her expertise in marine management, gender approach and climate change. Ms. González has also merged her profession with activism, something that she has been actively doing since she was 16 years old. She works in research and as a consultant, sharing and exchanging knowledge with different communities. She has been able to get to know Costa Rica from a different perspective, one that is storing stories and experiences ready to be told and translated.

In 2019, Ms. González organized the first youth event to be held at a Pre-COP and was part of the team that proposed the Intergovernmental Declaration of Youth, Children and Climate Change at COP25.

She has also helped establish and develop the network to become a vibrant global youth movement for biodiversity with 1.2 million members and member organizations in 145 countries and in 2020, she has been awarded the Midori Prize for Biodiversity.