



COP26

Urban informality & inequality: a global call for climate justice

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Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Title: Mayor

First Name: Yvonne

Family Name: Aki-Sawyerr OBE

Organisation: Municipality

City: Freetown

Country: Sierra Leone



Biography

Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE was sworn-in in May 2018 with a commitment to transform Freetown using an inclusive, data-driven approach to address challenges in the city. The 4-year Transform Freetown plan details concrete targets across 11 sectors and covers issues ranging from tackling environmental degradation and climate change to facilitating the creation of jobs to reduce youth unemployment.

A finance professional with over 25 years of private sector experience in strategic planning, risk management consulting and project management, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr's public sector engagement began with her work during the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic and her subsequent role as Delivery Team Lead for the second phase of a multi-stakeholder programme to drive socio-economic recovery in Sierra Leone post Ebola.

Mayor Aki-Sawyerr was featured by Time Magazine in the Time100 Next 2021 List and by the BBC in the BBC 100 Women 2020 List. She is Vice Chairperson for the C40 Cities Global Group Steering Committee.

She is a Chartered Accountant and holds an MSc in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics and a BSc Hons in Economics from Fourah Bay College.



Joanes Atela, Convener Africa Research and Impact Network, Director Partnerships African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya

Title: Dr

First Name: Joanes

Family Name: Atela

Organisation: African Research and Impact Network & African Centre for Technology Studies

City: Nairobi

Country: Kenya



Biography

He is also the Director for Partnerships at the African Centre for Technology Studies. He has over fifteen (15) years' experience in policy research-offering technical support to African Governments in resilience, sustainable development, and knowledge management. He has successfully led the development of the African Union Green Innovation Framework on behalf of the Africa Union to guide member states in accelerating green growth actions and currently leading a number of innovation and resilience studies on behalf of regional commissions of Africa. He is also the City Lead for Nairobi Risk Hub- part of UKRI-GCRF funded Tomorrow's Cities Hub. He is currently a Member of the Advisory Group to the United Kingdom- Research and Innovation (UKRI)- Global Challenges Research Fund and Scientific Advisory Panel Member of the Stockholm Environment Institute's initiative in Stockholm at @50+. Joanes has published widely in resilience and knowledge management. He holds a PhD in Environment and Development from the University of Leeds.



Harriet Bulkeley, Professor of Geography, Durham University, UK

Title: Professor

First Name: Harriet

Family Name: Bulkeley

Organisation: Durham University

City: Durham

Country: UK



Biography

Harriet holds joint appointments as Professor in the Department of Geography, Durham University, and at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University. Her research focuses on environmental governance and the politics of climate change. Harriet coordinated the H2020 NATURVATION project from 2016 – 2021 examining the role of urban innovation with nature-based solutions for sustainable development. She has undertaken commissioned research for the UK Government, European Commission, NGOs, UN-Habitat, the OECD and the World Bank. In 2014, Harriet was awarded the King Carl XVI Gustaf's Professorship in Environmental Science and a Visiting Professorship at Lund University, Sweden and in 2018 was granted the Back Award by the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of the policy impact of her work on climate change. In 2019, she was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences and as a Fellow of the British Academy.

Vanessa Castan Broto, Professor of Climate Urbanism, University of Sheffield, UK

Title: Professor of Climate Urbanism

First Name: Vanessa

Family Name: Castan Broto

Organisation: Urban Institute in the University of Sheffield

City: Sheffield

Country: UK





Biography

Vanesa Castan Broto is Professor of Climate Urbanism at the Urban Institute in the University of Sheffield. She leads two major programmes of research: Low Carbon Action in Ordinary Cities, funded by the European Research Council, examines the potential for low carbon, climate resilient innovation in the context of rapid urbanisation. Community Energy and Sustainable Transitions in East Africa, funded by UKRI, examines the potential for developing community energy systems as an alternative to deliver inclusive energy access. In 2021, Vanesa received the AXA Award for Climate Science. She is a lead author for the IPCC (Working Group II) and led the urban environment chapter for UN-Habitat's 2020 World Cities Report on 'The Value of Sustainable Urbanization' and has published several academic books on climate change, cities and inequality.

Sonia Dias, Waste Specialist, WIEGO, Brazil

Title: Resident Waste Specialist

First Name: Sonia

Family Name: Dias

Organisation: Women in Informal Employment:

Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

City: Manchester

Country: United Kingdom



Biography

Sonia is WIEGO's resident waste specialist. She is a sociologist by training and a "garbologist" with specialization in Solid Waste Management. She has a Master's degree in Human Geography on the role of the local governments in strengthening waste pickers' organizations, and a PhD in Political Science on the role of participation in solid waste management. She also had two years visiting professorship at the Federal University of Minas Gerais.



David Dodman, Director of Human Settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK

Title: Dr

First Name: David

Family Name: Dodman

Organisation: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

City: London

Country: United Kingdom



Biography

David Dodman is the Director of the Human Settlements Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and a Lecturer in the Development Planning Unit, University College London (UCL). He holds a D.Phil. in Geography from the University of Oxford, and works in the fields of urban geography, international development, and climate change. He has worked in partnership with southern civil society organizations, local and national governments, and international organizations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. David has contributed to major international reports including the UN Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements, and is currently a Coordinating Lead Author on 'Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure' for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

Greg Munro, Director of Cities Alliance (Chair)

Title: Director

First Name: Greg

Second Name: Munro

Organisation: Cities Alliance

City: Brussels

Country: Belgium





Biography

Dr Greg Munro is the Director of Cities Alliance, a partnership hosted by UNOPS, which seeks to address the challenges of urban poverty and informality, particularly in secondary cities. Prior to joining Cities Alliance Greg was the Secretary-General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), supporting local democracy and decentralisation in the 54 Commonwealth nations.

Aníbal Gaviria, Governor of Antioquia, Colombia and President of Cities Alliance

Title: Governor, Presidente

First Name: Anibal

Family Name: Gaviria

Organisation: Antioquia, Cities Alliance Assembly

City: Medellin

Country: Colombia



Biography

Business Administrator at EAFIT University. Anibal Gaviria has been a protagonist in the social and economic development of Antioquia, being governor of the department of Antioquia in the period from 2004 - 2007, later mayor of the city of Medellin between 2012 and 2015. Subsequently, in 2019, he was elected as President of the Cities Alliance Assembly and was elected again to lead the development of the department during 2020 to 2023.



Martin Kipping, Head of Division, Climate Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Title: Dr.

First Name: Martin

Family Name: Kipping

Organisation: German Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development

City: Berlin

Country: Germany

@MartinKipping1



Biography

Martin Kipping has been active in BMZ's Climate Policy Division for 5,5 years and holds its lead since 07/19. The division for Climate Policy is the BMZ lead on climate change mitigation and policy, UNFCCC negotiations, BMZ contributions to the NDC Partnership and to the InsuResilience Global Partnership, climate change in international policy processes (G7, G20) and in EU policies, BMZ's public relations strategy in the area of climate change and liaison with civil society.

Martin Kipping holds a doctorate in Political Sciences from Freie Universität Berlin and diplomas from Freie Universität Berlin and Sciences-Po Paris. Before joining the Division of Climate Policy Martin Kipping served as Advisor to the Executive Director for Germany at the World Bank in Washington, as the Director for Germany at the Caribbean Development Bank, as Advisors on Afghanistan at BMZ, as Head of Development at the German Embassy in Kabul (Federal Foreign Office) and as Water sector desk officer at BMZ.



Rubbina Karruna, Regional Cities & Infrastructure Adviser, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK

Title: Regional Cities and Infrastructure Adviser -
West Africa

First Name: Rubbina

Family Name: Karruna

Organisation: FCDO

City: Accra

Country: Ghana



Biography

Rubbina Karruna is a Cities and Infrastructure Adviser at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), based in Ghana, working on urban development, housing and infrastructure projects and policies in Myanmar, Ghana and Liberia. Prior to this Rubbina was the UK Department for International Development (DFID)'s Cities Adviser where she developed and led DFID's policy and international engagement on urbanisation and housing.

Rubbina trained at UCL's Development Planning Unit in the Bartlett, and at the Architecture and Cities Department in Westminster University, with a focus on urban design, community led housing, participation and urban climate resilience planning. Rubbina is on the board of trustees for Architecture sans Frontiere – UK, a non-profit organisation which supports communities to design more equitable cities, an organisation she has worked with for over 10 years across various continents.



Rose Molokoane, National Coordinator of the Federation of the Rural and Urban Poor, Affiliate of Slum Dweller International (SDI) and one of the SDI's Founding Leaders, South Africa

Title: Ms

First Name: Rose

Family Name: Molokoane

Organisation: Slum Dwellers International

City: Pretoria

Country: South Africa



Biography

Rose Molokoane is a national coordinator of the South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP), one of the founding federations affiliated to Slum Dwellers International (SDI), a global network of slum dweller federations in 33 countries across the Global South. Rose currently serves on the UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE), and previously served as Chair of the World Urban Campaign and co-chair of the Grassroots Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners. She is a resident and member of the Oukasie savings scheme in a slum settlement outside Pretoria, South Africa. A veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, she is one of the most internationally recognized grassroots activists involved in land tenure and housing issues. FEDUP has helped more than 150,000 slum dwellers, the vast majority of whom are women, to pool their savings and improve their lives. This has won them sufficient standing to negotiate with the government for a progressive housing policy that has already produced 15,000 new homes and secured more than 1,000 hectares of government land for development. Molokoane has initiated federations of savings schemes throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. She was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor in 2005 for her struggle to bring land and homes to the poor.



Aromar Revi, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, India

Title: Mr

First Name: Aromar

Family Name: Revi

Organisation: Indian Institute for Human Settlements

City: Bangalore

Country: India



Biography

[Aromar Revi](#) is the founding Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements ([IIHS](#)). He is a global practice and thought leader, and educator with over 37 years of interdisciplinary experience in sustainable development, global environmental change, long-term futures, governance, public policy and finance, and urbanisation.

Aromar is a global expert on Sustainable Development; Co-Chair of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), from where he helped lead a successful global campaign for an urban Sustainable Development Goal ([SDG 11](#)) in the UN's 2030 development agenda. He is a member of the Advisory Board of [UCLG](#), the global voice of local and regional governments from 0.24 million towns, cities and regions.

Aromar is one of the world's leading experts on global environmental change, especially climate change. He is a Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) of the 2018 IPCC [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C](#). He is a CLA of the synthesis chapter on Climate Resilient Development Pathways of the IPCC Assessment Report 6 on Adaptation, and a member of the AR6 Synthesis Report writing team. He is also a CLA of the 2018 SR1.5 [Summary for Urban Policymakers](#), and the 2021 [Summary for Financial Decision Makers](#).

He is one of South Asia's most experienced risk and disaster management professionals and has been a member of the Advisory Board of UNDRR's Scientific & Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and its bi-annual Global Assessment of Risk (GAR), from 2008. He has led the design for UNDRR of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure ([CDRI](#)), a global partnership to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.



Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

Title: Ms.

First Name: Emilia

Family Name: Saiz

Organisation: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

City: Barcelona

Country: Spain



Biography

Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.