



Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

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Conference on **THE GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

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Columbia University

Panelist Biographies

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Panelist Biographies

Speakers

Yann Aguila

Partner, Bredin Prat; Professor of Public Law, Sciences Po and Paris Bar School; Chair of the Environmental Law Commission, Club des Juristes

Yann Aguila, former judge at the French supreme administrative court (the *Conseil d'Etat*), is a partner at Bredin Prat, in Paris, where he heads the firm's public law practice. He advises on all aspects of public law and environmental law. He chairs the Environmental Law Commission of the *Club des Juristes* (the first French legal think-tank), and has authored several reports on environmental law ("Environmental damage"; in 2012, and "Increasing the effectiveness of International Environmental Law"; in 2015). He manages an international network of around 100 experts, who together drafted a blueprint for the Global Pact for the Environment. He is the Secretary General of the Group of the Experts for the Pact (GEP). He currently lectures on public law at Sciences Po and at the Paris Bar School. He was awarded the 2014 Law Book Prize for his book "Droit public français et européen" (in French) (French and European public law) that he co-authored with Bernard Stirn (President of the Litigation Division of the *Conseil d'Etat*).

M. Laurent Fabius

President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic

Laurent Fabius (born 1946 in Paris) occupied several governmental positions in France: Minister for the Budget (1981-1983), Minister of Industry and Research (1983-1984), Prime Minister (1984-1986), Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry (2000-2002), Foreign Minister (2012-2016). He was also Member of Parliament from 1978 to 2012, and served twice as President of the French National Assembly, from 1988 to 1992, and again from 1997 to 2000. In 2015, as President of the COP 21, he played a crucial role in the negotiations that led to the Paris Climate Agreement, the first universal agreement to fight against climate change. In February 2016, he was appointed President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic.

Nicolas Hulot

Minister of State; Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France

Nicolas Hulot began his career as a reporter, where he first began to raise awareness about the importance of conservation. Keen to use his public profile to help protect the planet, Hulot soon founded what became Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind to inform the public about the environmental condition of the planet and to persuade as many people as possible of the need to change their behaviour. In 2005, Hulot threw his support behind the Charter for the Environment, calling on deputies and senators as well as normal people to take action. At the end of 2006, Nicolas Hulot proposed an Ecological Pact to candidates in the presidential election, urging them to put environmental and climate concerns at the heart of public policy. Since that time, Hulot has organized an annual conference to bring together the government, local authorities, trade unions, business and voluntary sectors to draw up practical green policies. In December 2012, as President of his foundation and in a voluntary capacity, he was appointed Special Envoy of the President of the Republic for the Protection of the Planet. On 17 May 2017, Nicolas Hulot was appointed *Ministre d'Etat*, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, in the government of Edouard Philippe.

Jeffrey D. Sachs

Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University

Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is director of the Millennium Villages Project. He is also one of the Secretary-General's MDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has authored several bestsellers including *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). His most recent books are *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* (2013), *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015), and *Building the New American Economy* (2017).

Carlos Sallé

Director of Energy Policies and Climate Change, Iberdrola

Carlos Sallé is the Director of Energy Policies and Climate Change for the international utility Iberdrola and an Industrial Engineer for the ETSII (School of Industrial Engineering) in the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. From 1987 to July 1995 he worked in areas related with system operation in Red Eléctrica de España (the Spanish Transmission System Operator). He subsequently held various positions at the first electricity regulator in Spain (Comisión del Sistema Eléctrico Nacional). From January to April 1998 he was member of the management team in charge of launching and setting up the Market Operator Company, as Operations Manager. In April 1998 he returned to the electricity regulator as Market and Operation Director. After the functions of the former CNSE were integrated into the new Energy Commission (CNE), in January 2000 he was appointed Director of Electricity. In February 2001 he joined the consultancy firm NERA (National Economic Research Associates), where he held the position of Associate Manager for the Energy Area. In September 2001 he joined IBERDROLA Group as Regulation Director, and was later appointed as Director of Energy Policies. He is a Member of UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board since January 2014.

Erik Solheim

Executive Director, UN Environment Programme

Erik Solheim is the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment). Prior to joining UN Environment in August 2016, Solheim was the chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). From 2007 to 2012, Solheim held the combined portfolio of Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development, and from 2005 to 2007 served as Minister of International Development. During his time as Minister, Norwegian aid reached 1%, the highest in the world. Solheim is also an experienced peace negotiator, having acted as the main facilitator of the peace process in Sri Lanka from 1998 to 2005. He continued to lead peace efforts in Sri Lanka as Minister, and has contributed to peace processes in Sudan, Nepal, Myanmar and Burundi. In addition to his career as a Minister and at the OECD, Solheim has served as UN Environment's Special Envoy for Environment, Conflict and Disaster since 2013 and a Patron of Nature for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2012. Solheim holds a degree in history and social studies from the University of Oslo.

Moderators

Michael Gerrard

Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Law School, Columbia University

Michael B. Gerrard is Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, where he teaches courses on environmental and energy law and directs the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. He is also Chair of the Faculty of Columbia's Earth Institute. Before joining the Columbia faculty in January 2009, he was partner in charge of the 110-lawyer New York office of Arnold & Porter LLP. He practiced environmental law in New York City full time from 1979 to 2008 and tried numerous cases and argued many appeals in federal and state courts and administrative tribunals. He formerly chaired the American Bar Association's 10,000-member Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. He has served as a member of the executive committees of the boards of the Environmental Law Institute and the American College of Environmental Lawyers. Gerrard is author or editor of eleven books, two of which were named Best Law Book of the Year by the Association of American Publishers. His most recent book is *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law* (with Jody Freeman) (2d ed. 2014).

Maria Ivanova

Professor of Global Governance and Director, Center for Governance and Sustainability, University of Massachusetts Boston

Maria Ivanova is an international relations and environmental policy scholar. Her research focuses on international environmental institutions and their performance, environmental sustainability, and the science-policy interface. She studies the UN Environment Programme as the anchor institution for the global environment, the implementation of global environmental conventions, and the policy processes around the Sustainable Development Goals. She is Associate Professor of Global Governance at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston where she also directs the [Center for Governance and Sustainability](#). She was a member of the [Scientific Advisory Board](#) of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is a Board member of the [U.N. University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability](#) (UNU-IAS) and the [Global Young Academy](#), and an [Andrew Carnegie Fellow](#). She also serves as Ambassador for the New Shape Prize of the [Global Challenges Foundation](#).

Teresa Parejo-Navajas

Associate Professor of Law, Universidad de Carlos III Madrid

Teresa Parejo-Navajas, PhD., is an Associate Professor of Administrative Law at Carlos III University (Madrid, Spain), LLM on EU Law and member of the Pascual Madoz Institute of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and Environment, in Spain. She has published two books, one of which received an award in the year 2004, as well as numerous articles on the environmental and spatial planning fields in Spanish and international journals. Previous to her collaboration with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law (Columbia University), where she is an affiliate, she has been Visiting Scholar in various European and US universities, such as Università di Bologna (Italy), Oxford University (UK), Fordham University (NYC, US) and PACE University. She received a research award on the year 2012 for her curricular merits.

Panelists

Susan Biniaz

Former Deputy Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State; Adjunct Faculty (International Environmental Law), Columbia Law School

Sue Biniaz is a former Deputy Legal Adviser at the State Department. She served as the Department's lead climate lawyer from 1989 until early 2017 and as the legal adviser to the U.S. delegation for numerous international environmental negotiations. She is currently on the adjunct faculty at Columbia and Yale Law Schools.

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva; Member of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes is Professor at the University of Geneva and the Director of the Platform for International Water Law (Geneva Water Hub: <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/fr>). She has widely published in the areas of international environmental law, international water law and dispute settlement. In 2008, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes received the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law. She is a member of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. A Senior Counsel to the World Bank between 1995 and 1999, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes has advised international organizations, States and private entities. She acts as an arbitrator in investor-State disputes. She is also a counsel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and has acted in renowned international environmental law cases (Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (1996), Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (2010) and Whaling in the Antarctic (2014)).

Maxine Burkett

Professor of Law, William S. Richardson School of Law; Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Maxine Burkett is a Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. An expert in climate change law and policy, she has presented her work on diverse areas of climate law throughout the United States and in West Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean. She has been cited in numerous news and policy outlets, including BBC Radio, the New York Times, the International Business Times, and Nature Climate Change. From 2009-2012, Professor Burkett also served as the inaugural Director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP). As the Director of ICAP, she led projects to address climate change policy and planning for island communities globally. In 2010, Burkett served as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics at the Wayne Morse Center, University of Oregon, for the Center's "Climate Ethics and Climate Equity" theme of inquiry. She is the youngest recipient of the Chair.

Professor Burkett attended Williams College and Exeter College, Oxford University, and received her law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Among her many public service responsibilities, Burkett is a member of the board of Global Greengrants Fund, is a member scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, and is a member of the Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment. She was a 2016 recipient of Williams College's Bicentennial Medal for distinguished achievement.

Fernando Carrillo Flórez

Procurator-General, Colombia

Fernando Carrillo Flórez is a socioeconomic lawyer and the Procurator-General of Colombia. He was one of the promoters of the Student Movement “Séptima Papeleta” that made possible the calling upon of the National Constituent Assembly in 1991, in which he also participated. He proposed the creation of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Constitutional Court and other institutions aiming at the modernization of justice. In addition, he promoted the injunction action; the right of every citizen to appeal for the protection of its constitutional/fundamental rights. He has held, among others, the following positions: Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Ambassador of Colombia in Spain, Director of the Legal Defense Agency of the Colombia, and Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank in Paris and Brazil. He has been a professor at Javeriana, Andes, Sabana, Center for Constitutional Studies in Madrid, Carlos III University, Institute of Political Studies in Paris -Sciences Po, among others universities. He has published more than 14 books and 80 articles on democracy, governance and reform of justice. He graduated with honors from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá and holds a Master's Degree in Public Law and Finance from Harvard University and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at the same University.

Sarah Cleveland

Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights, Columbia Law School; Member, UN Human Rights Committee

Sarah Cleveland is the Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights, and Faculty Co-Director of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia University Law School in New York, where she teaches and writes in the areas of international law, human rights, national security and the constitutional law of U.S. foreign relations. She is a Visiting Researcher with the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II) for the 2017-18 academic year. Cleveland is an independent expert Member of the UN Human Rights Committee and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, and Coordinating Reporter of the American Law Institute's project on the Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States. From 2009 to 2011, Cleveland served as the Counselor on International Law to the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, where she helped supervise the office's legal work relating to human rights, counterterrorism, the law of armed conflict, and international justice. She continues to serve as a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on International Law, and is a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, and a Council Member of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. A former Rhodes Scholar and law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, Cleveland holds a baccalaureate degree from Brown University (1987), a master's degree from Oxford University (1989) and a J.D. from Yale Law School (1992). She is an editorial board member of the International Review of the Red Cross and the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law. She has written widely on issues of international law, national security, and human rights, including co-authoring Human Rights (Foundation Press, 2nd ed. 2009 and update 2013); Defining and Punishing Offenses Under Treaties (Yale L. J. 2015); Embedded International Law and the Constitution Abroad (Colum. L. Rev. 2010); and Our International Constitution (Yale J. Int'l L. 2006). Professor Cleveland has taught at the Harvard, Michigan, and University of Texas law schools; Oxford University, Sciences-Po University, the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; and the European University Institute, Florence.

Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Born in Barcelona, Joan Clos is a medical doctor with a distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. He was twice elected Mayor of Barcelona during the years 1997-2006. He was also the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain from 2006-2008. Prior to joining the United Nations in 2010 as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, he served as Spanish ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan. He served also as the Secretary-General of Habitat III, the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador.

Naoko Ishii

CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Naoko Ishii has served as the CEO and Chairperson for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) since June 2012. Prior to that, she was the Deputy Vice Minister of Finance, where she was responsible for Japan's international financial and development policies, and for its global policies on environmental issues. She led the Japanese delegation at the Transition Committee for designing the Green Climate Fund. For nearly half of her career, she has served in international assignments outside of Japan. At the World Bank, she was the Country Director for Sri Lanka and the Maldives from 2006 to 2010. She has published numerous papers and several books, two of which were awarded the Suntory Prize in 1990 and Okita Memorial Prize for International Development Research in 2004. She is the inaugural recipient of the 2006 Enjoji Jiro Memorial Prize. She holds BA and PhD from University of Tokyo.

The Honorable Justice Swatanter Kumar

Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal, India

After completing his education B.A., LL.B., Justice Swatanter Kumar was enrolled as an Advocate with the Delhi Bar Council on in 1971. He was appointed as Standing Counsel/Legal Advisor for various Government departments, Public & Private authorities including Central Pollution Control Board, appearing in environmental cases all over the country. During his practice, he worked in all fields of law i.e., Original Side, Appellate Side, Extraordinary Jurisdiction (Writ), criminal law, PIL and intellectual property. He was alleviated to the Bench of Delhi High Court in 1994 and was appointed as permanent Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh. Thereafter, was appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court in 2007. In 2009, he was alleviated as a judge to the Supreme Court of India. While he was a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India, was appointed as Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal in 2012. During his long tenure as a judge, he disposed large number of cases in various fields of law including Environment and Constitutional Law. In 2015, by 56 different judgments, he disposed of 209 cases in a day in the National Green Tribunal. Hon'ble Chairperson has been awarded with the National Law Day Award, the 'IMA Distinguished Services Award' and Capital Foundation Justice Kuldip Singh National Award for his outstanding contribution to Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. The contribution of the Hon'ble Chairperson particularly in the field of environmental jurisprudence is appreciated nationally and internationally both.

Peter Lehner

Senior Strategic Advisor, Sustainable Food and Farming, Earth Justice

Peter Lehner ([@p_lehner](#)) is Senior Strategic Advisor at Earthjustice and directs its [Sustainable Food & Farming Program](#). From 2007–2015, Peter was the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council and the NRDC Action Fund. During his years, NRDC grew its climate, water and food work significantly, as well as its membership and community outreach. From 1999–2006, Peter served as chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's office, supervising all environmental litigation by and against the state. Law established in some of his cases underlies the EPA's Clean Power Plan. Peter previously served at NRDC for five years directing the clean water program, and

before that he created and led the environmental prosecution unit for New York City. Peter holds an AB in philosophy and mathematics from Harvard College and is an honors graduate of Columbia University Law School.

Marcos Orellana

Director, Environment and Human Rights Division, Human Rights Watch

Dr. Marcos A. Orellana (LL.M., S.J.D.) is Director of the recently established Environment and Human Rights Division at Human Rights Watch. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor at the George Washington University School of Law. Previously, Dr. Orellana directed the trade and sustainable development program at the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and was a Fellow at the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law of the University of Cambridge, in the United Kingdom. A native of Chile, Dr. Orellana acted as legal counsel to the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Dr. Orellana has also provided expert advice to several International Institutions, including the UN Environment Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal

Head, Climate and Clean Energy Practice, World Wildlife Fund for Nature International

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal is the Leader of the Climate and Energy Global Practice of World Wild Fund for Nature International. He is the former Minister of Environment of Peru. Before of his appointment as Minister he had been the Executive Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental SPDA). He is also a Board member of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, the Amazon Conservation Association (ACA), Forest Trends, and member of the advisory board of the Prime Minister of Fiji for COP23, member of the Steering Committee of the 218 California Summit, member of the advisory board of the Transport Decarbonization Alliance and member of the Global Leadership Group of the Marrakesh Platform for the Climate Action Agenda. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal was the longest-serving member of the cabinet of ministers of Peru, holding office for nearly five years. In 2014 and 2015, he was president of the UN Climate Convention's twentieth conference of the parties (COP 20). Mr. Pulgar-Vidal carried out this task with facilitation, negotiation and consensus-building skills, whilst shaping a collaborative relationship with the COP 21 presidency held by France.

His career development includes extensive experience with the private sector, having carried out work as a lawyer in the legal areas of a group of mining companies from 1986 through 1990, regarding labor and taxation issues. He is an expert in the area of environmental law and policy with special emphasis on issues related to environmental policy and management, at national, regional and local levels. Mr Pulgar-Vidal is also a renowned opinion leader on environmental matters, continually contributing to the radio, television, written and communication media. He holds Master's Degree in Business Law from Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC), Peru.

David W. Rivkin

Partner and Co-Chair of the International Dispute Resolution Group, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP; Immediate Past President, International Bar Association

David W. Rivkin is Co-Chair of Debevoise & Plimpton's International Dispute Resolution Group and Immediate Past President of the *International Bar Association* (IBA). Mr. Rivkin is consistently ranked as one of the top international dispute resolution practitioners in the world. He has handled international arbitrations throughout the world and before virtually every major arbitration institution, and he has won some of the largest investment treaty and commercial arbitration awards. Subjects of these arbitrations have included long-term energy concessions, investment treaties, joint venture agreements, insurance coverage, construction contracts, distribution agreements and intellectual property, among others, and they have involved common law, civil law, Islamic law and other systems. He also represents companies in transnational litigation in the

US, including the enforcement of arbitral awards and arbitration agreements. He was the first American to serve as IBA President in 25 years. He has authored many articles and frequently spoken about international arbitration and litigation, and in his role as IBA President about such topics as business and human rights, judicial integrity, climate change justice and the important role of lawyers in reserving the rule of law. Mr. Rivkin has served in leadership roles in international arbitration institutions around the world; currently, he is Vice Chair of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and a Board member of institutions in Australia, Mumbai and Mauritius. In 2012, the *American Lawyer's Am Law Litigation Daily* named Mr. Rivkin one of two "Global Lawyers of the Year." In 2011, the *National Law Journal* named him one of the country's "Most Influential Attorneys." Mr. Rivkin sits on many arbitration panels, including the American Arbitration Association's panel of arbitrators for energy disputes. Mr. Rivkin is a member of, among other organizations, the *Council on Foreign Relations*, the Council of the *American Law Institute*, the U.S. Secretary of State's *Advisory Committee on Private International Law* and the Sanctions Subcommittee of the Department of State's *Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy* (ACIEP).

Halldór Thorgeirsson

Senior Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, UN Climate Change Secretariat

Halldór Thorgeirsson is Senior Director for Intergovernmental Affairs at the UN Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn overseeing support to the intergovernmental process under the Climate Convention and the Paris Agreement. He coordinated substantive support to the negotiations of the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015. Earlier he coordinated the support to the negotiations leading to the Cancun Agreements, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan. Before that he directed the Sustainable Development Mechanisms programme, which supports the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). He has worked on global environmental issues for the Ministry for the Environment in Iceland and before that on ecological research and science policy. He served as Chair of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) for a two-year term.

Laurence Tubiana

CEO, European Climate Foundation

Laurence Tubiana is CEO of the European Climate Foundation. She is also the Chair of the Board of Governors at the French Development Agency (AFD) and a Professor at Sciences Po, Paris. Before joining the ECF, Laurence was France's Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for COP21, and as such a key architect of the landmark Paris Agreement. Following COP21, she was appointed High Level Champion for climate action.

Mariam Wallet Aboukrine

Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Mariam Wallet Aboukrine is trained as a general practitioner and humanitarian. Her great interest in reducing social inequalities, realizing fundamental rights for the most disadvantaged, especially Indigenous Peoples, led her to devote herself definitively to the development of Indigenous communities. She joined the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples as a member in 2014 and is its current chair. Mariam sees the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement as an invaluable framework for advocacy for this honorable mission she has set herself.

Zhang Xinsheng

President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

In addition to being the President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Mr. Zhang is Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Eco-Forum Global, an independent organization founded in 2009

committed to building consensus among all stakeholders for development of a green and sustainable future. As the Vice Minister of Education in China (2000–2009), Mr. Zhang promoted the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in China leading to the integration of ESD into the curricula of Chinese schools. Mr Zhang was Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO (2005–2007) and was Chairperson of UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (2003–2004). During his two consecutive tenures from 1989 to 1997 as Mayor of Suzhou Municipality, Suzhou became the fourth largest city in terms of GDP and a role model of sustainable urban development in China. Mr. Zhang received a Master in Design Studies with distinction at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.