

Speakers' biographies

CO-CONVENERS:

Tsuyoshi Michael Yamaguchi (Mr), Minister of Environment, Japan



Tsuyoshi Michael Yamaguchi (PhD) is the Minister of the Environment of Japan. He has served for more than 40 years in the public institutions of Japan. Prior to his appointment, he was Chairperson, of the Special Committee on North Korean Abductions. He also served as Deputy Chairperson of the Election Strategy Committee, and later as Chief Deputy Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP). Since 2002, he has been elected six times member of the House of Representatives. Before entering politics, he worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was appointed First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in China (1989), Pakistan (1991) and the United Kingdom (1993). Yamaguchi holds a

Master's and a Doctoral Degree from the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University.

Gerd Müller (Mr), Director General, UNIDO



Gerd Müller is Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Prior to this appointment at the end of 2021, Müller was Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, a post he had held since December 2013. During this time, key focus areas of his work included implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate action, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Beijing Declaration on gender equality. In the year 2013, Müller served as Germany's representative at the World Bank's Board of Governors. From 2005 to 2013, he was Vice Minister at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in charge of international relations, development projects and world food affairs.

Inger Andersen (Ms), Executive Director, UNEP



Inger Andersen is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Between 2015 and 2019, Andersen was the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Andersen has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. She has led work on a range of issues including agriculture, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, infrastructure, energy, transport, and water resources management and hydro-diplomacy. Between 1999 and 2014, Inger Andersen held several leadership positions at the World Bank including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council. Prior to her 15 years at the World Bank, Andersen worked 12 years at the United Nations, first on drought and

desertification, beginning with the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office. In 1992, she was appointed UNDP's Water and Environment Coordinator for the Arab Region. Andersen holds a Bachelors from the London Metropolitan University North and a Master's in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

MODERATOR:

Stephan Sicars (Mr), Officer-in-Charge, Directorate of Environment and Energy, UNIDO



Stephan Sicars has worked for, and later managed, the Research Centre for Refrigeration and Heat Pumps in Germany. Later, he headed his own consultancy undertaking research for international industries, NGOs and governments. He implemented projects in India and China, and provided policy advice on environment matters. He served as a technical expert on several international panels. In 2004, he started his work in the United Nations as Senior Programme Officer with the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Joining UNIDO in 2014, he became Director of the Department of Environment in 2015. In that role, he focused the department on the reduction of emissions of Greenhouse Gases, on minimizing industrial pollution, and on advancing circular economy. In addition, between 2020 and 2022, he oversaw UNIDO's Energy portfolio. He has also been responsible for managing climate action across all of UNIDO and advancing programmatic work with several strategic donors, including the Green Climate Fund. He was recognized for his contribution, as coordinating lead author for IPCC, to the Nobel Peace Prize 2007, and has received an US-EPA Ozone Award. Sicars holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hanover, Germany.

PANELLISTS:**Beatrice Cyiza (Ms), Director General, Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Rwanda**

Beatrice Cyiza is the Director General, Environment and Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda, overseeing the development and dissemination of legal instruments, strategies and programme related to environment protection, climate change and pollution control. Before joining the Ministry of Environment, she worked at Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture as the Administrative Coordinator for Academic Affairs, Extension and Applied Research. Prior to that, she served as an Environmental Audit and Monitoring officer at Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and also served as the alternate focal point for Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and the Nagoya Protocol Focal point for more than 7 years. She is a member of the African Women in science and Engineering. A Rwandan National, Cyiza holds a master's degree in Biodiversity Conservation from the University of Rwanda and a bachelor's degree in Biology, Chemistry with Education.

Tomás Saieg Páez (Mr), Head of Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment, Chile

Tomás Saieg (PhD) is an electronic engineer and holds a doctoral degree in science and technology policy studies from the University of Sussex in England. He worked at CORFO, where he promoted the corporation's first circular economy competitive fund. Since 2019, he has worked at the Ministry of the Environment, where he was in charge of the project that led to the publication of the Roadmap for a Circular Chile by 2040. Since March 2022, he has been the head of the Circular Economy Office.

Oliver Boachie (Mr), Senior Advisor to Minister, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana

Oliver Boachie is currently serving as the Special Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the Republic of Ghana. Among his duties, he advises and assists the Ministry in the formulation of policies and implementation strategies on Technology & Innovation, Environment & Climate Change, and Circular Economy. Boachie is a member of the Governing Board of Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); member of the Technical Committee of the Platform for Accelerating Circular Economy (PACE); member of the Technical Committee of Africa Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA); and Chairman of the Technical Committee of Ghana's National Plastics Action Partnership (NPAP). He is also a member of the Governing Board of All Nations University, a private university based in Ghana. Boachie is a member of the Working Group that drafted the Ministerial Statement released for endorsement at the Ministerial Conference on Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter (September 1-2, 2021) in Geneva.

Earlier in his career and prior to his migration back to Ghana, Boachie worked with global technology companies in the United States, including Texas Instruments and IBM Corporation. He graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in Physics and Computer Science, and a post-graduate diploma in Software Engineering from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida in affiliation with the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He migrated from Ghana to the United States in 1977 under a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship, where he studied Computer Science at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

Mamoru Kadokura (Mr), Member of the board and CTO, Kaneka Corporation



Mamoru Kadokura (PhD) graduated from Graduate School of Engineering of Kyoto University and earned his doctoral degree in March 1987. He joined Kaneka Corporation in April 1987. Including his post in Kaneka Belgium NV for 7 years, he served several posts in Kaneka Corporation. He was promoted to the CEO of Kaneka Corporation in April 2014 and served for 6 years before moving to his present post in April 2020 as Member of the Board, Executive officer and CTO (Chief Technology Officer).

Eva Mokoena (Ms) and Luyanda Hlatshwayo (Mr), African Reclaimers Organisation, South Africa



Eva Mokoena is the African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO) chairperson and educator for waste separation at source programme in schools.

Luyanda Hlatshwayo is the reclaimer and waste separation at source project manager in ARO.

ARO is a membership-based democratic organisation of reclaimers working with reclaimers in residential areas and landfills. ARO workers sort, collect and sell recyclable materials. Currently ARO has a membership of over 5500 reclaimers in and around the City of Johannesburg. ARO represents and defends the interests of reclaimers, and ensures that they are able to partake fully as members of society in the recycling economy and in looking after the environment.