7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Stakeholder Forum

Parallel session 5: Policy-Coherence Between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Moderators & Speakers Biographies

Moderator: Adessou Kossivi
Director of Africa Regional Office, GNDR

Specialist of International Environmental Law (IEL), he has developed expertise in Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management. He applies his hands-on experience to lead and coordinate civil society organizations and networks in Africa. Kossivi is an advocate of shifting power from the international system to community-led capacities, preparedness and response facilitated by the local organizations. As the global lead of Climate Change at GNDR, Kossivi contributes with several partners to making Loss and Damage a standalone and key topic to promote solidarity, responsibility and social justice toward community victims of climate related events. He is the newly elected co-chair of the Global Board of Climate Action Network International (CAN-I). He has worked in Togo, Mozambique, and Senegal covering climate change Adaptation and DRM and development topics.

Speaker: Animesh Kumar
Head, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Office in Bonn

Animesh Kumar is the Head of the UNDRR Office in Bonn that serves as the organisation's global facility for climate action and comprehensive risk management, disaster data and monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs. Before joining this position, Animesh served as the Deputy Head of the UNDRR Regional Offices in Asia-Pacific (Bangkok) and Africa (Nairobi). In these capacities, he led regional policy and coordination on disaster risk reduction, including through inter-governmental and stakeholder mechanisms, besides enhancing joint UN efforts on building resilience. In his previous positions, Dr Kumar worked in other UN entities in Africa and Asia, including on a UN secondment to the Government of Ethiopia as their Policy Advisor on DRR and climate change. Dr Kumar has led risk assessments and food security analysis in multiple countries. He has also served on various committees including on risk insurance, science and technology, urban and city resilience, business resilience, etc. and has several publications to his credit. Dr Animesh Kumar is a Geographer, and holds an MPhil and PhD in climate change adaptation and sustainability.

Speaker: Maruxa Cardama
Secretary General, SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport

Maruxa is passionate about social, political, economic and environmental justice for human development, Maruxa specialises in integrated urban and territorial development. Over her 16-year career, Maruxa has worked with multilateral institutions, national, regional and local governments, NGOs and philanthropy in 33 countries across continents to develop public policies, capacity and implementation projects, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Maruxa currently serves as Secretary General of the Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport SLoCaT. Previously she founded Communitas, the multi-stakeholder coalition which pioneered knowledge-based advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goal on Cities & Human Settlements. In recent years, she has served in the UCL- Nature Sustainability Expert Panel on the Urban Science-Policy Interface and as Adviser on Global Agendas to the Conference of European Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe CPMR. Her formal training was as a lawyer, as well as in EU law and in development economics.

Speaker: Dan Perell
Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community

Daniel Perell joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include global governance, climate change and the environment, and sustainable development. He currently co-chairs the Coalition for the UN We Need and he is formerly a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group (HLPF) and Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. Mr. Perell has worked with the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, the UN in Aceh, Indonesia and other organizations in the Marshall Islands and Chile.