Adolfo Ayuso-Audry

Adolfo Ayuso-Audry is Director General in the Office of the Mexican Presidency, in charge of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Before joining the Office of the Presidency, he was Director for European Union Affairs and Humanitarian Aid at the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID). A trained diplomat Adolfo was posted to the Mexican Embassies in Berlin and Vienna and to Mexico’s General Consulate in Dallas, Texas.

Helen Clark

Helen Clark was the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme from April 2009 until April 2017. Prior to her appointment with UNDP, Helen Clark served for nine years as Prime Minister of New Zealand. Throughout her tenure as Prime Minister, Helen Clark engaged widely in policy development and advocacy across the international, economic, social and cultural spheres. First elected to Parliament in 1981, Helen Clark was re-elected to her multicultural Auckland constituency for the tenth time in November 2008. Earlier in her career, she chaired Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee. Between 1987 and 1990, she was a Minister responsible for first, the portfolios of Conservation and Housing, and then Health and Labour. She was Deputy Prime Minister between August 1989 and November 1990. From that date until December 1993 she served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and then as Leader of the Opposition until winning the election in November 1999. Prior to entering the New Zealand Parliament, Helen Clark taught in the Political Studies Department of the University of Auckland.
Karl Falkenberg

Karl Falkenberg is a trained economist and journalist, having worked for 40 years in the EU Commission. First in trade policy, at both multilateral and bilateral level, then as Director General for Environment. He has briefly worked on Fisheries policy and spent the year 1990 as International Relations and German Unification adviser to EU President Jacques Delors.

Julie Gelfand

Julie Gelfand is Canada’s Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development since 2014.

Before joining the Office of the Auditor General, Julie was the Chief Advisor for the Rio Tinto Canada office, the Vice President of Environment and Social Responsibility at Rio Tinto, Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC), Vice President, Sustainable Development at the Mining Association of Canada and President of Nature Canada from 1992 to 2008. Prior to 1992, Julie worked for 10 years with several non-government and government agencies that focused on nature conservation, wildlife conservation, water issues and sustainability.
Virginie Helias

Virginie Helias is Vice President Global Sustainability at Procter & Gamble. With 29 years of experience at Procter & Gamble in Brand Management and Innovation, Virginie has a broad experience across multiple categories and global to local brand management expertise across several of P&G multi-billion dollar brands (Pantene, Ariel/Tide, Pampers). She has international experience (France, UK, Switzerland and the United States).

Prior to her current position, she was the Western Europe Franchise Leader for Ariel, one of P&G largest brands, where she turned Ariel into the leader in Sustainability through the launch of the highly successful “Cool Clean/Turn to 30” campaign and the most sustainable laundry product (Excel Gel).

Lailai Li

Dr. Lailai Li is the China Country Director for WRI China. Dr. Li serves as the lead representative for WRI China and is responsible for formulating, leading, and implementing WRI’s vision and strategy in China. She manages relationships and guides its work to advance China’s environmental and sustainability goals. Prior to joining WRI, Dr. Li was the Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute and Director of SEI Asia Centre. She also served as a deputy director of China Urban Sustainable Transport Research Centre based in Beijing. Previously, she directed the LEAD-China program for 10 years, which is a worldwide network of new generation leadership in the environment and development arena.
Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso

Ms. Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso is the Director and executive head of African Monitor (AM), a regional non-governmental body set up to act as a catalyst to monitor development resource commitments, delivery and impact on the grassroots, and to bring strong additional African voices to the development agenda. As a global civil society leader, Namhla is a strong advocate for citizen-centric approaches to development. She also promotes government accountability in Africa. Her latest work focusses on building capacity for co-creation and collaboration across sectors to implement the SDGs.

Namhla is the co-chair of the Africa CSO Working Group, a network of over 100 African CSO that have been collaborating to develop a framework for sustainable development in Africa. She is also a CSO reference group member of the UN Development Cooperation Forum and the OECD DAC CSO reference group.

Joost Oorthuizen

Joost Oorthuizen is the Executive Director of the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), a multi-government funded organization with seat in the Netherlands that works with over 350 companies, local governments and civil society to mainstream sustainable trade in internationally traded commodities through public-private partnerships.

He started his career in Asia in water engineering and lectured on public-private governance at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Wageningen University. And continued as management consultant in international retail and the infrastructure. He is an expert in public private stakeholder management, holds a Ph.D. in natural resource management and a post-graduate Master of Change Management degree (MCM).
Teresa Ribera

Teresa Ribera is the Director of the Institute for sustainable development and international relations (IDDRI) in Paris, an independent policy research institute, which aims at fostering the transition to sustainable development and prosperity for all, especially through four key agendas: climate, biodiversity and ecosystems, ocean and governance of sustainable development.

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes

Jan-Gustav began working with the UN and the environment and governance in the 1970s and has stayed with this arena ever since. During the 80s and early 90s Jan-Gustav taught about the UN, worked with the CSD process (UN Commission for Sustainable Development) 1996 – 2011, was a liaison officer between the UN and the NGO community at the UN HQ in New York in 97-98, worked for the Norwegian Aid Agency in Botswana (83-85), and Norway’s foreign office in Uganda (2003 – 05). He has extensive NGO experience through more than four decades in almost all continents in the world. While also working for Stakeholder Forum UK on global sustainability and governance issues and Pure Consulting in Norway where he advices the private sector and municipalities on implementing the SDGs, Jan-Gustav works as an independent researcher, adviser and consultant writing, lecturing or doing research on environment, governance and sustainability issues.
Farooq Ullah is the Co-Chair of the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) and a Director of Stakeholder Forum (SF); an international NGO advancing sustainable development through good governance and participatory decision-making at all levels. Farooq also hold several non-executive positions. He is the Chair of Future Earth’s Engagement Committee, a Specialist Advisor to UK Parliament’s Environmental Audit Committee (EAC), an Associate of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), an Associated Partner of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA).