

A Human Rights-Based Approach for Community Adaptation to Climate Change

WEBINAR | 3rd February 2021 | 09:00h – 10:30h CET

Panellist's Bios

Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to safe drinking water and sanitation



Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo is the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. He was appointed by the Human Rights Council in September 2020 and started his mandate on 1 November 2020. Previously, from 2016 to 2019, Arrojo-Agudo served as an elected member (MP) of the Spanish Parliament during its eleventh and twelfth legislature, during which he was part of the International Cooperation Committee working on human rights. Arrojo-Agudo was Professor in the Area of Fundamentals of Economic Analysis at the University of Zaragoza (1989-2011), and has been professor emeritus since 2011. In 2002, Arrojo-Agudo co-founded the [New Water Culture Foundation \(NWCF\)](#), an Iberian non-profit organization with more than 200 members from academia, public administration and stakeholders in the water sector, which aims to promote a change towards a new water culture.

Roula Majdalani

Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability, ESCWA



Ms. Majdalani served as ESCWA Acting Deputy Executive Secretary between October 2018 and February 2019, and has previously served as Human Settlements Officer, First Economic Affairs Officer on water resources, and Chief of the Technical Cooperation Section. Ms. Majdalani holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning (Syracuse University) and worked with Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (London). She has publications on green economy, integrated management of water resources, housing development and sustainable cities, and has led multistakeholders programme and initiatives on climate change, governance of natural resources and waterenergy-food security interlinkages.

Johannes Cullmann

Director of Water and Climate Department, World Meteorological Organization



Mr Cullmann has joined the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2015 as the Director of the Climate and Water Department. From 1 January 2020, he is the Director for Water and Cryosphere. Mr Cullmann was Director of the IHP/HWRP division (science and international cooperation) of the German Federal Institute of Hydrology from 2007 to 2015. He was involved in formulating the Institute's research strategy, delivering the first climate change impact analysis of German water-ways and took part in harmonising data for assessing hydrological futures for the Rhine river basin. He helped coordinating international water affairs within the German government and with international partners. From 2012 to 2014, he was President of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's water programme. In this function he has been negotiating implementation plans for UNESCO with Governments and other UN Agencies. Mr Cullmann was the German representative in the Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine River, one of the important features of European transboundary water cooperation.

Professor Saleemul Huq

Director of ICCCAD and Professor at the Independent University Bangladesh



Dr Saleemul Huq is the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Professor at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) as well as Associate of the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) in the United Kingdom as well as the Chair of the Expert Advisory Group for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and also Senior Adviser on Locally Led Adaptation with Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) headquartered in the Netherlands. He is an expert in adaptation to climate change in the most vulnerable developing countries and has been a lead author of the third, fourth and fifth assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and he also advises the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He has published hundreds of scientific as well as popular articles and was recognized as one of the top twenty global influencers on climate change policy in 2019 and top scientist from Bangladesh on climate change science.

Ania Grobicki

Deputy Director for External Affairs, Green Climate Fund



Dr Ania Grobicki is Deputy Director of External Affairs at the Green Climate Fund. She is a South African chemical engineer who worked for a major oil company, and subsequently completed a PhD in biochemical engineering at Imperial College London. She thereafter worked in academia and consulting, on water, environment and development issues, before becoming the coordinator of the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food. Subsequently, for six years she headed the Global Water Partnership (a worldwide network of water organizations) as its Executive Secretary, based in Sweden, and then served as the Deputy Secretary General and Acting Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Ania has written a number of publications on water and development-related issues, most recently as Coordinating Lead Author for the freshwater chapters of the 6th Global Environmental Outlook. Concerned by the major changes occurring in both global and local water cycles, for the last 10 years she has focused on the links between water and climate, including water-related disasters, prior to joining GCF in 2019.

Afef Tlili

Consultant, Minerva Consulting



Afef Tlili, Tunisian Engineer, Consultant and Manager of Minerva Consulting with more than 12 years experience in MENA region and Europe. My main expertise is on Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Water, Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Gender. I have developed, implemented and monitored several national and regional initiatives to build the capacities of governments and stakeholders on strategising for livelihoods improvement for all, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

Dhesigen Naidoo

President of Human Right 2 Water, CEO of Water Research Commission and Member of Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission



Dhesigen Naidoo is the CEO of the Water Research Commission. It is South Africa's only dedicated water research steering and funding institution. He also served as an official in South African government between 1996 and 2007. In this period he worked for inter alia the Ministries of Water Affairs & Forestry, Environmental Affairs & Tourism, and Science & Technology where he served as Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Resources. Between 1990 and 1996 he was a medical natural scientist at the University of Cape Town and Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Amanda Loeffen

Chief Executive, Human Right 2 Water



Amanda is CEO of Human Right 2 Water, and an experienced general manager and business development executive in water, energy and sustainable development, with international experience in Australasia, Europe and North America. Her goal is to provide sustainable solutions based on human rights to improve water governance worldwide. Previously as Director General of WaterLex, she led a team of water governance experts to encourage law and policy reform. Current projects include her leadership of the UNECE People-First PPP Stakeholder Engagement subgroup to realise benchmarks for developing human rights-based approaches. Previously, as CEO of a project management company in New Zealand, Amanda delivered environmental resource consent for a community water infrastructure scheme for irrigation and hydro-generation.