

Climate and Health Resilience Webinar

Panellist Bios

Michel Jarraud

Emeritus Secretary General WMO

Chair of HR2W Expert Committee



Mr Jarraud was appointed as Secretary General of the World Meteorological Congress from 2004 until 2016. In 2012 he also assumed the Chair of UN-Water, the inter-agency mechanism that coordinates and strengthens the work of United Nations organizations and programmes on all issues relating to fresh water. Initially qualified as a scientist and a meteorologist, and before joining the WMO Secretariat as Deputy Secretary-General in January 1995, Mr Jarraud served many years in the internationally renowned European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and with the French National Meteorological Service, Météo-France.

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.

Dhesigen Naidoo

Climate Commissioner, CEO, Water Research Commission



Dhesigen Naidoo is a Climate Commissioner in the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission in South Africa and 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.

Sharmila Murthy

Associate Professor, Suffolk University Law School



Sharmila L. Murthy is an Associate Professor at Suffolk University Law School, where she teaches and writes on issues of property law, environmental law, international environmental law, poverty, and human rights. Previously, Sharmila co-founded the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation Program as a Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy. In 2014, Sharmila was selected as a finalist for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Sharmila began her legal career as a public interest poverty lawyer after clerking on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Sharmila received her JD from Harvard Law School, her MPA from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and her BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University. She was also a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in India.

Dr Ania Grobicki

Deputy Director of External Affairs at the Green Climate Fund.



Dr Ania Grobicki is currently 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 then completed a PhD in biochemical engineering at Imperial College London. She worked in academia and managed a consulting firm, on water, environment and development issues, before becoming the coordinator of the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food, an international agricultural research initiative.

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 water and climate risks to society, including water-related disasters, prior to joining GCF in 2019.

Dr Daniel Cano

Advisor, Indigenous Affairs, OAS



Daniel Cano has a Ph.D. in History at Georgetown University. His research has focused on the study of Indigenous communities and their relationship with the nation-state through education. Among his publications are books, chapters, articles in scientific Journals, and mass media. Co-Founder and Director of “Kuykuitin”, an organization that works on Indigenous Conflict Resolution, based in Chile. (www.kuykuitin.org). Currently, Daniel is an Adviser on Indigenous Affairs to the Secretary General of the OAS.

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.

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.

Carol Chouchani Cherfane,

Director of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



Carol Chouchani Cherfane is Director of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, which supports the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut. In doing so, she coordinates the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR), which is implemented with under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, as well as related initiatives on water, food and climate security in the region. She previously served as Chief of the Water Resources Section at ESCWA. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked for the Harvard Institute for International Development and the World Bank. She holds degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Georgetown University.

Rojina Manandhar

Programme Officer, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



Rojina Manandhar leads the Nairobi work programme-UNFCCC adaptation-to-knowledge action hub for adaptation and resilience at the UNFCCC secretariat. She is passionate about understanding barriers faced by policy makers and practitioners in countries that hinder them to scale up adaptation. Her work is about understanding these barriers and co-designing solutions to build the resilience of countries through partnerships with governments, experts and broader communities of practice.

In her day-to-day job, she gets inspiration by working with experts, national policy makers and young professionals. Over the past 15 years, she has worked on the scientific, technical, and policy aspects of impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change, on thematic topics of water resources, oceans and coastal areas, biodiversity, human settlements, health, mountain ecosystems and ecosystem-based adaptation and science-policy-practice interface in a global context as well as in South Asia, North America, and Europe. She also represents the UNFCCC secretariat in UN-Water, FAO's Global Framework on Water Scarcity on Agriculture (WASAG), and WHO-IUCN Expert Working Group on Biodiversity, Climate Change, One Health and Nature-based Solutions.

Amanda Loeffen

Chief Executive Officer, 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, and she is currently on the steering committee of AGUASAN. Previously, as CEO of a project management company in New Zealand, Amanda delivered environmental resource consent with stakeholder engagement for a community water infrastructure scheme for irrigation and hydro-generation.