

PROFILES OF SPEAKERS

Launch of MCR2030

28 October 2020, 13:00-14:30 CET

Opening Session



Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Gino Van Begin is the Secretary General of ICLEI, the leading global network of more than 1,750 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future.

Gino has worked for ICLEI for 20 years. In his former positions as Regional Director for Europe and Deputy Secretary General, and now as Secretary General since 2013, he has consistently worked towards ensuring ICLEI performs as a responsible, forward-looking, not-for-profit local and regional government organization serving its Members worldwide.

Throughout his 20 years at ICLEI, Gino has witnessed cities becoming home to over half of the global population, while facing an increasing number of challenges. At the same time, he worked with and witnessed local and regional governments as they respond to these challenges, despite their sometimes limited means. Without waiting for nations to take action, over the years, local and regional governments have found solutions to mitigate the effects of urbanization, climate change, inequity and ecosystem degradation, while increasing their resilience, lowering their dependent on fossil fuels and becoming more sustainable overall.

In his position as Secretary General, Gino also ensures that ICLEI takes every opportunity to decisively influence global negotiation processes and increase the presence of local and regional governments on the global stage, in order to promote the sustainability agenda at all levels.

Gino Van Begin was born in Belgium and graduated with a law degree from the University of Brussels. Before joining ICLEI, Gino worked in Russia for seven years as an advisor and as team leader at the EU-funded Environmental Centers for Administration and Technology in Kaliningrad and Saint Petersburg. Prior to that, he worked in Brussels for five years at the European Commission, DG Environment.



Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR

Mami Mizutori is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, based in Geneva, Switzerland. She assumed her role on 1 March 2018.

The role of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is to support countries and stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The Special Representative ensures the strategic and operational coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development agendas as well as the linkage with the UN Secretary General’s prevention agenda and with humanitarian action.

Ms. Mizutori served for twenty-seven years in various capacities in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Mizutori was Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK, since 2011.

Ms. Mizutori graduated in law from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and obtained a Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain. A Japanese national, Ms. Mizutori speaks Japanese, English and Spanish.

Session 1: Journey of resilient cities



HE Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh, Prime Minister of Mongolia

Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh is a Mongolian politician currently serving as Prime Minister of Mongolia since October 2017. He was elected to the Parliament of Mongolia three times – in 2000, 2004 and 2012, served in the Cabinet of Mongolia as Minister for Emergency Situation from 2004 to 2006, Minister for Professional Inspection from 2006 to 2008, and in 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 as Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. Also he was the Secretary-General of Mongolian People's Party from 2008 to 2012. He was awarded the United Nations Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017.



Emilio Jatón, Mayor of Santa Fe, Argentina

Jatón has a degree in Journalism and Social Communication (Faculty of Humanities and Sciences of the Universidad Nacional del Litoral) and has postgraduate studies in Public Opinion (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences). He has exercised his professional activity in a private way and in different local, national and international media for 30 years. In the public sphere, he has served as a senator for the La Capital department, where he promoted initiatives related to mobility, responsible tenure and consumer rights, among others. He was also elected as a councilor for the city of Santa Fe where he promoted initiatives on urban waste treatment and urban planning, among others. As of December 12, 2019, he is the mayor of Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina.



Mourade Dièye Guèye, Secretary General of the City of Dakar, Senegal

Mourade Dieye Gueye is responsible for executing the Mayor's and Council's strategic directions and coordinating municipal services. He has been working in the Municipality for more than 15 years.

He has an extensive experience in architecture and housing, information technology and management of urban services. As the City of Dakar focal point for CRPP UN-Habitat, he works in developing and promoting local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies.

Mr. Gueye holds an MBA from the Université du Québec à Montréal and a Master's degree in Information Science from the Université de Montréal (Canada).



Kathryn Oldham OBE, Chief Resilience Officer, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), UK

Kathryn has been Greater Manchester's Chief Resilience Officer since 2017, providing strategic leadership for the city region's approach to resilience. She heads up Greater Manchester's participation in both the international Global Resilient Cities Network and the United Nation's Making Cities Resilient campaign, including as a member of the campaign's global steering committee.

Kathryn is responsible for a specialist unit delivering disaster risk reduction and an emergency response service for Greater Manchester's ten local authorities. She also provides a strategic advice function to the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum with a focus on multi-agency collaboration to deliver safer, stronger and more resilient communities in Greater Manchester.

She was the co-ordinator for a European Commission funded initiative to create and implement a city-to-city peer review methodology to help cities deliver the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as leading Greater Manchester's input into a number of other European resilience projects. Kathryn has been engaged in drafting national, British, European and International Standards on resilience, including providing expert input into the city-level indicators for the Sendai Framework.

Kathryn holds a medical degree and has previously held a wide range of positions in local government.



Mohammad Jaljoui, the Executive Council of Dubai, UAE

Mohammad Jaljoui is a Senior Strategy Advisor at the Executive Council of Dubai. He has over 21 years of experience in public sector management, with an emphasis on strategy and performance management in the MENA region. He holds a master's degree in economics. He led the design of Dubai Plan 2021; a seven year city-wide strategy with social, economic and urban goals the city aspires to achieve by 2021. He's a coauthor of a World Bank's publication titled "Influencing Change" (2011).



Samira Mohammad AlRais, the Executive Council of Dubai, UAE

Samira Al Rais is senior director of policy and strategy for sustainable development department in the Executive Council of Dubai. Al Rais has over 17 years of experience within the public sector, with specific focus in setting the sustainable development strategic agenda for the Executive Council. Samira has expertise within the realm of strategy management, as well as knowledge within a multitude of disciplines including strategic planning, performance management and policymaking. Samira is a graduate of Mohammed Bin Rashid Program for Leadership Development and policymaking certificated from LSE University. Al Rais possesses vast experience dealing with different government projects related to sustainable development sectors such urban development, climate change, security and health. She is an official Dubai representative in the C40 cities climate leadership group.



Cemal BAS, Councillor of Keçiören Municipality and representative of Union of Turkish Municipalities

Cemal BAS has graduated from La Trobe University with a degree on Financial Management. He continued his high education with master's degree from Sakarya University on Local Governance. He currently continues his PhD education on spatial economics in Ankara University.

Worked in diverse sectors as accounting assistant, Cemal BAS also worked as research assistant in the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Securities Industry Research Center of Asia Pacific, specifically focusing on diversification of Asia Pacific finance market with the promotion of Islamic finance tools. He also continued his finance career as correspondent banker. During his finance career he also published 36 articles on personal finance, as a columnist in a newspaper.

From 2011, Mr. BAS started working in the Union of Turkish Municipalities as an economist. He carried out capacity building projects on local government services with donor funding, majorly from EU and other development agencies with total volume of 40 € million. He has several articles and books published by the Union on project management and city diplomacy.

In 2019 local elections Cemal BAS has been elected as municipal councillor from Metropolitan District Municipality of Kecioren (Ankara/Turkey). Mr. BAS is also member of the Congress of the Local and Regional Government of the Council of Europe as well as the member of the Policy Council of Council of European Municipalities and Regions. He is also the Co-coordinator of the European Local Finance Expert Group of the CEMR.

An active member of the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), Mr. BAS represents the Union of Turkish Municipalities at the World Council, Executive Bureau, Financial Committee, Capacity and Institutional Building Working Group.

Cemal BAS also represents UCLG Taskforce for Territorial Prevention and Management of Crisis as Vice-President.

Session 2: MCR2030 Global Partnership



Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Malaysia is the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), appointed by the Secretary-General, following an election by the General Assembly on 22 December 2017.

She succeeds Joan Clos of Spain to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his dedicated service to the Organization. Dr. Clos led UN-Habitat during the pivotal years when the world's population became majority urban. During this time, he championed the development of a New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11), the first development goal focused on sustainable urbanization. His emphasis on urban planning and national urban policies has been widely appreciated and applied to plan and steer the world's cities toward sustainability, economic and social progress and inclusion.

Ms. Sharif is currently Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia. Prior to her appointment as Mayor, she was the first woman to be appointed as President of the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai in 2011. As mayor of a local authority, she leads Municipal Council of Seberang Perai to achieve its vision of a "cleaner, greener, safer and healthier place to work, live, invest and play". She is a champion of Gender Responsive Participatory Budgeting to integrate gender perspectives into the governance process as a tool to mainstream gender into budgetary and development policy and planning. During her tenure, the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai was the first Local Authority to implement and achieve six quality-based management ISO certifications.

Ms. Sharif began her career as a Town Planner at the Municipal Council of Penang Island in 1985. In 2003, she was promoted to Director of Planning and Development, a position she held until November 2009. As Director, she was responsible for the preparation of structure and local plans, and was directly involved in development control of Penang City projects and landscape development. She also led a team for the planning and implementation of the Urban Renewal Projects in George Town. In November 2009, she was entrusted as the first General Manager to establish George Town World Heritage Incorporated and manage the George Town World Heritage Site which was inscribed by UNESCO in July 2008.

She holds a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Town Planning Studies from the University of Wales Institutes of Science and Technology, United Kingdom and a Master of Science in Planning studies from the Malaysia Science University. She is married and has two daughters.



Patricia McCarney, President and CEO, World Council on City Data (WCCD), Toronto, Canada

Patricia McCarney is President and CEO of the World Council on City Data (WCCD) and is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, Canada. She has served as Associate Vice President, International Research and Development at the University of Toronto.

Professor Patricia McCarney received her Ph.D. from M.I.T. in 1987. Before joining the University of Toronto, between 1983 and 1994, Professor McCarney worked as a professional staff member in a number of international agencies, including the World Bank in Washington, and the United Nations – HABITAT in Nairobi.

Patricia is currently a member of the ISO Technical Committee 268, Sustainable Development in Communities, where she is Convenor of the Working Group on City Indicators. She was integral to the development of the “ISO 37120 Series” – a set of ISO standards designed to support cities in building globally standardized city data. The ISO 37120 Series includes: ISO 37120, the first International Standard on Indicators for Sustainable Cities; ISO 37122, Indicators for Smart Cities; and, ISO 37123, Indicators for Resilient Cities.

Leading the World Council on City Data, Patricia McCarney is building a globally standardized data base for cities worldwide inviting cities to build data in conformity with the ISO 37120 Series of standards and become ISO certified. As host of this new knowledge platform, the WCCD is positioned to be the leading global city data base with standardized, verified, comparable and open city data for a growing network of smart and prosperous cities.



Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network

As Executive Director, Lauren oversees global efforts to strengthen cities in the face of the complex and interconnected challenges they face. Leading a team of professionals in London, Mexico City, New York, and Singapore in collaboration with Chief Resilience Officers in over 40 countries, she drove the co-design process to launch the Resilient Cities Network as an independent city-led network organization.

Lauren serves as an advisor and spokesperson on urban resilience, women's leadership, sustainable finance, climate risk, stakeholder engagement, and urbanization trends. She is on the Advisory Board of several sustainability-focused initiatives including Food Tank, the Singapore Sustainability Summit (S3), and Natural Capital.

Previously with the Asian Development Bank, Lauren led the Bank's first-ever climate change investment plan before moving to the ADB's Vietnam Office to mainstream climate risks and opportunities in the country's US\$7-billion portfolio. Before joining the ADB, she worked with USAID to implement clean energy, climate change, and conservation projects in Asia, Africa, and South America. She has published work on biofuels, climate change, public speaking for social impact, infant mortality, and HIV/AIDS.

Lauren holds a BA in International Relations from Tufts University, and an MSc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics.



Sameh Wahba, Global Director for the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, The World Bank Group

Sameh Wahba, an Egyptian national, is the Global Director for the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, based in Washington, D.C. The Global Practice, which also covers territorial development, geospatial and results-based-financing issues, has a portfolio of close to \$30 billion in commitments in investment projects, program-for-results and development policy lending, and about 450 staff.

Prior to this, Mr. Wahba served as the Director for Urban and Territorial Development, Disaster Risk Management and Resilience at the World Bank Group's Social, Urban Rural, and Resilience Global Practice, where he oversaw the formulation of the World Bank's strategy, design, and delivery of all lending, technical assistance, policy advisory activities, and partnerships at the global level. He also served as Practice Manager for the Urban and Disaster Risk Management unit in Africa and the Global Urban and Resilience Unit, and as Acting Director of Operations and Strategy for the Global Practice. He worked as Sustainable Development Sector Leader for Brazil, based in Brasilia, and as an urban specialist focused on housing, land, local economic development, and municipal management and service delivery in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Middle East and North Africa Regions. Prior to joining the Bank in 2004, he worked at the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies in Rotterdam and at the Harvard Center for Urban Development Studies.

Mr. Wahba holds a Ph.D. and Master's degree in urban planning from Harvard University, and a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Architectural Engineering from Cairo University. He speaks Arabic, French,

English, and Portuguese. He co-authored the World Bank's flagship publication on "[Regenerating Urban Land: A Practitioner's Guide to Leveraging Private Investment](#)" and the "[Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery](#)" Position Paper jointly with UNESCO.



Tiziana Bonzon, Manager, Climate, Migration and Resilience, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Tiziana Bonzon is the Manager for Climate, Migration and Resilience at the IFRC in Geneva. She has over 20 years of experience with the IFRC, and has held several roles, spanning from operation coordination, policy work, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Between April 2015 and June 2020 she led the Migration and Displacement portfolio and played a key role in the development of the [IFRC Global Strategy on Migration](#) adopted by the IFRC General Assembly in November 2017. She has also strongly engaged in the design and roll-out of the IFRC advocacy strategy in the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and often represents the IFRC as panellist in a variety of events, forums and meetings on the topic of migration and displacement. In 2019 she was temporarily assigned to Cameroon as Head of Country Cluster for Central Africa where she represented the IFRC in supporting the National Societies of the sub-region to plan, design and carry out community services in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Tiziana also carried out several programme evaluations at country level across all regions and in hard to reach communities in Liberia, Mozambique, Senegal, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Peru, and Jamaica.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Tiziana worked in the private sector for companies such as Pictet & Cie, FIAT, SAI Assicurazioni, and in several European countries (Italy, France, UK and Switzerland). She has also been a volunteer when she lived in New Zealand and recruited volunteers for community services or taught Italian and French classes to adults, and has most recently volunteered with the Geneva Red Cross to carry out visits to migrants in detention.

Tiziana is a Swiss and Italian national, she holds a MBA in Leadership and Sustainability from the University of Cumbria, UK. Her master thesis focused on the Characteristics of Formal and Informal Leadership in the Italian Red Cross during their period of organisational change. She also holds an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance and a bachelor in Foreign languages, interpreting and translation.



**Kozo NAGAMI, Deputy Director General, and Group Director for Disaster Risk Reduction Group
Global Environment Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

Kozo NAGAMI joined JICA in 1994 and had engaged in three big disaster recovery assistance operations: Indonesia tsunami and Aceh recovery in 2004, the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, and Nepal earthquake in 2015.

Mr. NAGAMI holds a Ph.D. in International Regional Development Studies from Toyo University, Master's in Public Policy from University of Southern California, and Engineering Bachelor from Kyoto University.



**Nicholas O'REGAN, Director, Implementation Practices and Standards, United Nations Office for
Project Services (UNOPS)**

O'Regan has worked with the UN and other international organizations since 1994. He began his career with the UN by supporting the UN Verification Mission in Angola. He then moved to UN Mine Action as Chief of Administration. In 2004, he joined the UNOPS Mine Action Unit in New York as a Portfolio Manager, where he oversaw programmes in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Sudan. He was appointed UNOPS Country Representative in Kenya in 2006, and later became the Director of UNOPS Office in Jerusalem in 2011. In 2015, he was appointed Head of the Project Management and Infrastructure Centre of Excellence, retaining his role as Director in Jerusalem. Mr. O'Regan was appointed director of UNOPS Infrastructure and Project Management Group in 2017.



Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.

Session Facilitator



Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, Supporting and Monitoring Sendai Framework Implementation Branch, UNDRR

Loretta Hieber Girardet is the Chief of Supporting and Monitoring Sendai Framework Implementation Branch of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), based in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to this, Loretta was the Chief of UNDRR the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

Loretta joins UNDRR from OCHA where she most recently served as Chief of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Section. In this position, Loretta led the global humanitarian cluster approach, cash-based assistance and accountability to affected people. In 2016, Loretta was responsible for substantive sessions of the World Humanitarian Summit.

Previously, Loretta led OCHA and the IASC's global efforts to achieve a common humanitarian assessment approach. Loretta has responded to most of the major crises in the past decade, leading inter-agency needs assessments and coordination platforms. She was also a senior policy advisor for OCHA.

Loretta also served as a senior programme officer for emergencies in the World Health Organisation, holding field positions in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She worked extensively in Africa as WHO's behaviour change specialist for HIV/AIDS programming. Prior to joining the UN system, she was a founding member of Media Action International, one of the first NGOs to promote community engagement in crisis settings, managing projects in Albania, Kosovo, Mozambique and Pakistan. Her academic work includes specialisation in psycho-social trauma related to conflict and crises from the Harvard School of Public Health and a Master's Degree in Sociology of Information and Communication from the University of Paris- Sorbonne.

Loretta is the author of "Lifeline Media: Reaching Populations in Crises", one of the first books to actively promote greater accountability and community engagement in humanitarian and disaster contexts.