



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

High Level Meeting on the Role of Credit Rating Agencies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Biographies of Panelists

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Alexandra Dimitrijevic is the Managing Director and Global Head of Research at Sustainable Finance and Innovation, S&P since 2018. Before that she was the Co-Founder and Executive Sponsor of the S&P Global Diversity Research Lab and Managing Director and Head of Corporate Ratings of EMEA, as well as Head of Methodology for Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings.



Marie Diron is the Managing Director of Moody's Investors Service on Sovereign and Sub-sovereign Risk, and the ESG project lead. She was the Director for Marco Forecasting at Oxford Economics from 2007 to 2014, and Principal Economist at European Central Bank from 2000 to 2005.



Stephany Griffiths-Jones is currently financial markets director at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, based at Columbia University in New York and associate fellow at the Overseas Development Institute. Previously she was professorial fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University. She has held the position of deputy director of International Finance at the Commonwealth Secretariat and has worked at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and in the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.





Elmarie Hamman is the Head of Credit Rating Agencies and Financial Benchmarks at Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) of South Africa since 2020. She has been the Specialist in Capital Markets Department of FSCA since 2012. She was the Risk Specialist in Financial Services Board from 2009 to 2012, and held multiple positions at KPMG and Teba Bank.



Iliana Lani is the Head of Ratings Indices and Securitisation at European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) since 2019. She was the Senior Manager International Delivery Department of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) from 2014 to 2019 and Head of Department of Licensing of Capital Market Intermediaries of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission in Greece from 2003 to 2013.



Brian Manning is the Minister in the Ministry of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago. He has served as a Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives for San Fernando East since the 2020 general election. He was previously the business analyst at Massy Energy Services Ltd and the investment banker at RBC Caribbean. He also worked as a small, medium enterprise financing officer at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., where he focused on businesses in the Caribbean and Central America. He held the position of equity analyst at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School Global Equity Fund and served as editor of the Business Guardian.



Francesco Mazzaferro has been the Head of the European Systemic Risk Board since January 2011. Francesco's career began in financial research, working in the Research Department at the Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino, in Frankfurt am Main and Turin. Following on from this he joined the European Commission, focusing on preparations for the introduction of the single currency. Francesco joined the ECB in 1995 (previously the European Monetary Institute) in the Policy Planning division, working at the euro introduction in 1999, and then moved to the European Relations Division. Following on from this he worked in the international department, becoming the Head of the EU Countries Neighbouring Regions Division.



Hiro Mizuno, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Innovative Finance and Sustainable Investments. He is a financial executive who served as Chief Investment Officer of the Japan Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF), the largest asset owner in the world, from January 2015 until March 2020. Prior to joining GPIF, he was a partner of Collier Capital from 2003 to 2005. He worked for Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings from 1988 to 2003.



Mahmoud Mohieldin has been the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda since February 2020. He is an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. He was the former Minister of Investment of Egypt from 2004-2010, and most recently, served as the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations and Partnerships. His roles at the World Bank also included Managing Director, responsible for Human Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Finance and Private Sector Development, and the World Bank Institute.



David Nowakowski is the Senior Strategist on Multi-asset & Macro at Aviva Investors. Prior to joining Aviva Investors, he was a director at Barings with responsibility for idea generation and scenario analysis for Fixed Income portfolios with a particular focus on currency, rates and credit strategies, as well as contributing to firm-wide macroeconomic views. Beforehand, David held numerous roles in investment management in New York and London, including Lazard Asset Management and The Rohatyn Group. He was also senior director of research at Roubini Global Economics and has advised sovereign and corporate clients during his time at Citigroup/Salomon.



Kenneth Nana Yaw Ofori-Atta is the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana since 2017. He was a co-founder of Databank Group, a Ghanaian financial services company, and served as executive chairman until 2012, when he resigned. He was the first African to testify at the US Congress Ways and Means Committee to support the African Growth and Opportunity Act. He was the Director for Enterprise Group Ltd and Trust Bank Ltd of The Gambia of which he is the chairman. He also was a Director at the International Bank and is also a board member of the Acumen Fund.



Jeffrey David Sachs is an American economist, academic, public policy analyst and former director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, where he holds the title of University Professor. He is Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is an SDG Advocate for United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From 2001 to 2018, Sachs served as Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, and held the same position under the previous UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and prior to 2016 a similar advisory position related to the earlier Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Shari Spiegel is Chief of the Policy Analysis & Development Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UN-DESA. Her previous positions includes Principal at New Holland Capital and Director of fixed income emerging markets at Lazard Asset Management. From 2002-2007 she served as the Executive Director of IPD at Columbia University while teaching at the School of International and Public Affairs. In the early 1990s she was CEO of Budapest Alapkezekelo, a subsidiary of Budapest Bank, which launched the first domestic investment funds in Hungary. She has also worked as a foreign adviser to the Hungarian Central Bank and as a consultant to the IFC/World Bank.



Ramya Vijaya is a professor of Economics and Chair of the department at Stockton University. Her recent work has focused extensively on systemic inequalities in the global political economy with a more recent focus on the role of credit rating agencies in perpetuating systemic inequalities.