

Biographies

Seminar 10 September 2009:

Countering Climate Change Vulnerability: Obligations and Opportunities in Implementing a post-2012 Agreement

Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra

Cheick Sidi Diarra is Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. He has over 25 years of professional experience in international relations, law and development. Cheick Sidi Diarra has been actively involved in furthering African integration efforts and the African development agenda at the international level. He has served as one of the lead negotiators on these issues at the African Union summits since 1982. Multilateral diplomacy has been the major area of his long diplomatic career.

Mr. Bo Ekman

Bo Ekman is the founder (1981) and chairman of the Sweden based Tällberg Foundation, that convenes leaders from all over the world to inquire and acquire new understandings and to find solutions to the complex challenges facing humanity. Bo Ekman started his career in the manufacturing industry. He served as a member of the executive committee of AB Volvo before becoming an entrepreneur growing several companies in market, social research and in strategic consulting to leading corporations and international organisations including the UN. He has served, and serves, on many boards in Sweden and abroad. He is also a prolific voice in the public debate.

Dr. Saleemul Huq

Saleemul Huq is the Director of the Climate Change Programme at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). His interests are in the inter-linkages between climate change (mitigation as well as adaptation) and sustainable development, from the perspective of the developing countries (with special emphasis on the least developed countries). He was the lead author of the chapter on Adaptation and Sustainable Development in the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and is a co-anchor of the cross cutting theme on Adaptation

and Mitigation for the fourth assessment report. Saleemul Huq holds a PhD in plant sciences from Imperial College, London.

Mr. Magnus Lennartsson

Magnus Lennartsson is the Resident Representative of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in New York. He is currently on a leave of absence from the Swedish Foreign Ministry, where he most recently served as Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo. He has also served in the Swedish Missions to the United Nations in New York and Beijing and as Director for Humanitarian Affairs and Conflict Prevention in the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Multilateral affairs, in particular humanitarian affairs and the United Nations, and Asia have been major areas of his diplomatic career. Magnus Lennartsson holds graduate degrees in international affairs from Stanford University and the University of Paris – Sorbonne.

Dr. Henning Melber

Henning Melber is Executive Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. A son of German immigrants to Namibia he studied Political Science (PhD) and Sociology (Habilitation in Development Studies) in Berlin and Bremen. He was a Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Kassel University (1982-1992), Director of The Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) in Windhoek (1992-2000), Research Director at The Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala (2000-2006). He is co-editor of the Africa Yearbook (Leiden: Brill) and managing co-editor of Africa Spectrum and a member of the executive committee of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).

Mr. Janos Pasztor

Janos Pasztor is the Director of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team. He has held a variety of positions within the UN system, including as Director of the Environment Management Group (EMG) Secretariat and as Coordinator, Officer-in-Charge of the Project-based Mechanisms Programme at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Janos Pasztor has also been the Information System Coordinator for the Earth Council Organising Committee, an Associate Scientist (Energy-Environment Planning) at the Stockholm Environment Institute, and the Energy Programme Director at the World Council of Churches.

H.E. Ambassador Dessima Williams

Dessima Williams is the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). She has a background as Professor of sociology, development and gender at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. She is also the founder and Director of the Grenada Education and Development Programme.