

## **COP26 Adaptation and Resilience Events Series: Sustainable and Inclusive Climate Adaptation and Resilience: local leadership for a global goal**

Launch Event 3 June, 12:30 to 15:00 (BST) – to include high level statements from:

### **Dr Debra Roberts, IPCC Co-Chair WGII**



Dr. Debra Roberts is currently head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekweni Municipality (Durban, South Africa). Prior to taking up this post in 2016, she established and managed the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of the same municipality for 22 years (1994-2016) and was selected as the city's first Chief Resilience Officer in 2013.

Dr. Roberts was a lead author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) and a contributing author to Chapter 12 (Africa) of Working Group II's contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She was elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the IPCC's sixth assessment cycle in 2015.

### **Professor Gideon Henderson, Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**



Professor Gideon Henderson was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 1 October 2019. He is responsible for overseeing the quality of evidence that the Department relies on for policy decisions. He also provides ministers with scientific advice and sets the priorities for scientific research and evidence-gathering.

He has been Professor of Earth Sciences at the Department of Earth Sciences in the University of Oxford since 2006. He has also jointly held positions as Senior Research Fellow at University College, Oxford since 2012 and as Adjunct Associate Research Scientist at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University since 1999.

**Dr Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, Secretary to the Government of India Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**



Dr. M. N. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, is well known for his research work in Tropical Meteorology including monsoon variability, seasonal monsoon forecasts, climate change, cloud-radiation interaction and prediction of convective weather systems. He has more than 30 years of experience both as an operational forecaster and also as an active researcher.

He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc), the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI); a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, Paris; and a High-level Advisor to the Commission of Climatology of the World Meteorological Organization for Global Framework for Climate Services. He was also a member of the WCRP-CLIVAR Asian-Australian Monsoon Panel.

**Dr Huang Jing, Director General, Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21), Ministry of Science and Technology**



Dr. HUANG Jing is currently the Director General of the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21), Ministry of Science and Technology of China, and Vice Chairman of Chinese Society for Sustainable Development. Among his many responsibilities, Dr. Huang oversees several international cooperation programmes in the areas of Sustainable Development and Climate Change. His portfolio also covers the management of National Key R&D Program of China in areas including Biotechnology, Water Resource, Marine Environment, Deep-sea Exploration, Natural Disaster Prevention and Relief, Solid Waste Management, etc.

**Dr Dorsamy (Gansen) Pillay, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa**



Dr Dorsamy (Gansen) Pillay is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer responsible for leading the Research and Innovation Support and Advancement division of the National Research Foundation of South Africa where he is currently the Acting CEO. His career spanning more than three and a half decades includes various academic, management and full professoriate positions at the former University of Durban-Westville (UD-W) and the Durban University of Technology in South Africa.

At the national level he serves on the Board of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), the Board of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) is a member of the Research and Innovation Strategy Group (RISG) of Universities South

Africa (USAf) and is on the ExCo of COHORT. He is currently a member of the Council of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria where he serves as the Vice Chair and is a member of the Belmont Forum Steering Committee.

### **Professor Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Bangladesh, IPCC Lead Author**



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. In addition he is 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.

### **Marie Staunton, Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board Chair**



Marie Staunton has wide experience in the humanitarian and commercial sectors in the UK, Europe and internationally. She has been part of the humanitarian response to climate related disasters and resilience programmes at UNICEF and Plan UK where she was Chief Executive. She has been the UK board member at the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, chaired Crown Agents, Raleigh international, the Equality and Diversity Forum and a variety of NGO and commercial organisations. She currently Chairs SOAS and SCOR.

Marie started her career working with homeless women, men and families for the Simon Community in London and Belfast. A solicitor, she worked with community groups and women's organisations at community law centres, was Legal Officer at Liberty and UK Director of Amnesty. She moved to the private sector as Publishing Director of a Pearson company and became vice chair of the global Amnesty Board. She moved back to the NGO sector and became Deputy Director of UNICEF UK, then served as CEO of Plan UK launching its girl's campaign, a member of its Global Management Team and subsequently CEO of Plan Canada and of the International Federation of Anti Leprosy Associations. She received a CBE for her humanitarian work.