

October 25 - 27

27 October 2021,
13:50-16:20 GMT
Virtual: Zoom Meeting

Urban Resilience Building:
African Cities' Green Growth in a changing climate

Speakers



H.E. Ban Ki-moon

President of the Assembly and Chair of
the Council, GGGI

On February 20, 2018, **Mr. Ban Ki-moon** was elected as the President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). His leadership enables the Institute to help its Members to successfully adopt the green growth model of development, which is in line with the work he spearheaded at the United Nations.

In addition to leading GGGI, Mr. Ban serves as the Chair of Korea's National Council on Climate and Air Quality since April 2019 and Chair of the Boao Forum for Asia since April 2018. Along with the former President of Austria Mr. Heinz Fischer, he serves as Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens in Vienna, Austria since January 2018. Mr. Ban is the Chairman of the International Olympic Committee Ethics Commission since September 2017, and he is the Distinguished Chair Professor and Honorary Chairman at the Institute of Global Engagement and Empowerment at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Ban also serves as Deputy Chair of The Elders since 2017, an independent group of global leaders established by President Nelson Mandela.

Prior to the current appointments above, Mr. Ban served two consecutive terms as the Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from 2007 to 2016, during which time he worked to build bridges, to give voice to the world's most vulnerable and marginalized people, and to bring transparency and effectiveness to the UN. He successfully initiated global action to combat climate change that culminated in the adoption and rapid entry into force the landmark Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2016. He worked closely with member states to shape the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to establish UN Women, the latter of which advances global gender equality and women's empowerment. He also led major efforts to strengthen UN peace operations, protect human rights, improve humanitarian assistance, prevent violent extremism and revitalize disarmament activities.

Prior to leading the UN, Mr. Ban was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. His 37-year career as a diplomat included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C., and Vienna, as well as key responsibilities for a variety of portfolios, including as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, the Chief National Security Advisor to the President, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Deputy Minister for Policy Planning, and the Director-General for American Affairs. Mr. Ban contributed significantly to issues relating to inter-Korea relations and WMD proliferation by serving as Vice Chair of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission and Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

Mr. Ban holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Seoul National University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Mayor Soham El Wardini

Mayor of the City of Dakar, Senegal,
member of the C40

Mayor Soham El Wardini has been Mayor of the City of Dakar since September 2018. Born on October 18, 1952 in Lamingué, to a Lebanese father and a Senegalese mother, Mrs EL WARDINI holds a Master's degree in English from the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar. She worked for several years in Senegalese educational institutions as an English teacher.

She entered politics in 1999 and became Secretary General of the Alliance for the Forces of Progress (AFP) of the Commune of Mermoz-Sacré coeur, President of the Women of the Department of Dakar and member of the Political Bureau of the party.

In 2009, Soham EL WARDINI became Municipal Councillor of the City of Dakar and in 2014 she was elected First Deputy Mayor of Dakar, a position she will hold until her election at the head of the City in September 2018.

Strongly committed to the strengthening of women's leadership, Mrs EL WARDINI has set her mandate under the seal of improving the living environment, through her Dakar - Clean City program, and the living conditions of Dakar residents.



H.E M. Abdoulaye Sow

Minister of Urbanism, Housing and
Public Hygiene of Senegal

H.E M. Abdoulaye Sow is from Minister of Urbanism, Housing and Public Hygiene of Senegal.



Mr. Romain Brillie

Country Representative
to Senegal, GGGI

Mr. Romain BRILLIE is the Country Representative of the Global Green Growth Institute in Senegal.

Over the course of his career, Romain has worked over three continents, advising large European businesses in the food, energy, utilities and extractive industries sectors on how to integrate sustainability in their business practices and as the Country Representative of a development INGO. He was previously GGGI's Country Representative to Mongolia. He holds a Masters' degree in Management and is a Certified Expert in Climate Adaptation Finance from the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (2019).



Ms. Christina Cheong

Green cities specialist, GGGI

Christina Cheong leads the Green Buildings Community of Practice in the Global Green Growth Institute. She has conducted building advisory work in India, the Caribbean, Senegal, Serbia, Fiji and Burkina Faso. She has co-authored numerous publications highlighting green growth opportunities through sustainable urbanization. Prior to GGGI, Christina worked with UN Women in Papua New Guinea, where she supported city governments in addressing safety in public spaces through infrastructure and institutional responses. She promoted civic participation and improved management of public spaces and services in Port Moresby. Christina also worked 8 years in engineering consulting, designing climate-friendly buildings for certification. She is a LEEDS AP and EDGE Expert.



Ms. Michelle de Freese

Senior Green Growth Officer,
Rwanda Program, GGGI

Michelle DeFreese is a Senior Officer with GGGI embedded in the Ministry of Environment (MoE), (formerly Ministry of Natural Resources of Rwanda (MINIRENA)) to support the development of strategic initiatives aligned with the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II) and the Rwandan National Strategy for Transformation (NST).

Prior to joining GGGI, Michelle worked as a Program and Partnerships Manager at the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), a USAID-funded, Feed the Future, collaborative project between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Previously, Michelle served as a Functional Reviewer with Global Integrity for the Rural Sector category of the sixth round of Africa Integrity Indicators research. She has also served as an Africa Research Fellow for the Young Professionals for Foreign Policy (YFPF), an Academic Think Tank Member for the International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS), and as a Board Member for Deeper Missions, a non-profit organization that implements sustainable development projects in Sierra Leone and Kenya.

Michelle was recently a consultant for the project “Understanding Drivers of Diet Change and Food Choice Among Tanzanian Pastoralists to Inform Policy and Practice,” a collaboration between Emory University, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Her role included conducting market survey research, training enumerators, and collecting data on food price, availability, and dietary habits in pastoralist communities in two livelihood zones in Tanzania. Michelle holds a BSc in Anthropology from Rutgers University and an MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), University of Geneva.

At GGGI Rwanda, she has supported the Government of Rwanda in the development of the Green Building Minimum Compliance System (GBMCS). She has also provided technical assistance in areas including e-mobility, green cities, climate adaptation, flood and landslide resilience, and on the integration of circular economy approaches to waste.

Hope to achieve at #GGGWeek2021:

She hopes that through presenting at GGGW2021, she can promote some of the initiatives that have been developed by the Government of Rwanda that are enabling the mainstreaming of green growth and circular economy principles to multiple sectors.

Social media links:

Twitter: @gggi_hq @GGGI_Rwanda @MDeFreese

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelledefreese/>



Mr. Edward Kyazze

Director General of
Urbanization and Human Settlements
and Housing Development,
Ministry of Infrastructure of Rwanda

Mr. Edward Kyazze currently works as the Director General for Urbanisation, Human Settlements and Housing Development at the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure. He also doubles as a Vice-Chairman of the Regulatory Council of Institute of Real Property Valuers Rwanda and a Board member of the Green City Kigali SPV. He is the co-author of the Urbanisation Pillar for Rwanda’s Future Drivers of Growth (2019) for Vision 2050.

Prior to joining the Ministry in December 2016 as Division Manager for Urbanisation, Human Settlements and Housing Development, Eddy served in various leadership aspects as a Head of Division for Urban and Housing Planning & Development and later as a Division Manager for Urban Settlements Planning & Development in Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) from June 2011. In between Eddy successfully represented Rwanda and the East African Block as a C5 Commissioner of the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) for the Conflict Resolution in the Republic of South Sudan from March-June 2019.

Before joining RHA, Eddy was working in higher education arena doubling as a University Lecturer and Deputy Academic Registrar at the College of Science and Technology (formerly KIST) from 2004 to June 2011. He holds a MSc. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Glasgow, UK (2009) and BSc. in Civil Engineering and Environmental Technology from KIST (2004).



Mr. Drazen Kucan

Sector Lead,
Senior Urban Development
and Energy Efficiency Specialist,
Division Adaptation &
Mitigation (DMA), GCF

Dražen leads global urban development and energy efficiency sector at Division Mitigation & Adaptation and the Green Climate Fund; responsible for a sector portfolio valued at just over USD\$3 billion. His work is focusing on technical reviews of Concept Notes and Funding Proposals throughout the GCF project and review cycle; delivering strategic pipeline development with a strong emphasis on the Green and Resilient Cities globally, while contributing towards a broad policy deliberation, in a multitude of international forums, on cities and climate change; and challenges related to scaling up climate finance and transformative transactions. He is responsible for the GCF portfolio of over 30 projects at different stage of development, funding considerations and implementation; and actively engaged in conceptual work and community of practice on de-risking structures and transformative interventions in the global urban and energy efficiency context at the GCF.

Ultimately, Dražen leverages his knowledge and experience in urban development and energy efficiency to help developing countries accelerate action towards a low-carbon and climate resilient development pathways.

Dražen is a former senior international staff of the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB); in his previous career he was a Director for Corporate Finance and Investment Banking with the Raiffeisen Banking Group (Austria); and a senior consultant in variety of resilient infrastructure development assignments across the Asia-Pacific and the Central & Eastern Europe region for the European Commission, the World Bank and the UNDP.

Dražen is a recipient of the EBRD Climate Resilience Gold Award (for the GCF innovative grant-based assistance to the Saiss Water Conservation project in Morocco, 2018)

He is also a recipient of the following Asian Development Bank awards (2019) for the GCF innovative loan and grant based assistance to the Ulaanbaatar Urban Renewal project in Mongolia:

- Most innovative and efficient project of the East-Asia Department;
- Best Bank wide “finance ++” project, rewarding the combination of excellent financing structure, financing leverage, and knowledge;
- Best Bank wide co-financing project for its climate finance component.

Beyond his current role, Dražen is a Steering Committee Member for the Cities Climate Finance and Leadership Alliance (CCFLA), Expert Reviewer for the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Working Group III (WGIII) Contribution the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, he recently served as a Member of the Steering Committee, Decentralized Finance Sub Track – the Leadership for Urban Climate Investments (LUCI), Framework Initiative for the UNSG Climate Action Summit and is on the Advisory Council for World Resources Institute (WRI) Ross Prize for Cities. Dražen has a dual, Dutch-Croatian nationality, and is fluent in six languages.



Mr. Ahmed Himy

Agence Marocaine pour l'efficacité
énergétique (AMEE), Morocco

Mr. Ahmed Himy's varied academic and professional background in transport, agriculture manufacturing and the residential sector have culminated in him integrating AMEE, the Moroccan government agency in charge of establishing and implementing the national strategy for energy efficiency and green economy. He provides professional consultation, interpretation and technical assistance to ensure that all private and public entities receive clear, concise and accurate program policy evaluation.

Having an academic background in IT, Manufacturing, Environment and Renewable energies, he has since specialized in monitoring and evaluation of public policies which often require a global approach and knowledge of several sectors in order to match energy data with socio-economic variables.



Mr. Shahid Yusuf

Chief Economist
The Growth Dialogue,
School of Business
George Washington University

Shahid Yusuf is currently Chief Economist of The Growth Dialogue at the George Washington University, School of Business in Washington DC; and a Non-Resident fellow of the Center for Global Development in Washington DC;

Prior to joining the Growth Dialogue, he was on the staff of the World Bank. Dr. Yusuf has written extensively on development issues, with a special focus on East Asia and has also published widely in various academic journals.



Mr. Ale Badara Sy

Senior Officer, Senegal Program, GGGI

Alé Badara SY is a Senior Officer at GGGI and the Coordinator of the Green Secondary Cities Wastewater, Plastic Waste and WEEE Management Project through Innovative Business Model for Recycling and Valorization in Senegal.

After graduating housing and urban development major, Ale worked on behalf of the Senegalese Government, multilateral organizations, and national & multinational firms on preparation and implementation of large infrastructure and major urban projects supported by the World Bank, AfBD, French Development Agency, UN Habitat, Cities Alliance, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Prior to joining GGGI, Alé has held the positions of Head of Environment Unit at the Investment Promotion and Major Projects Agency (APIX) and Project Coordinator at UN Habitat.

Alé is a member of such professional urban communities as ISOCARP and Planners for Climate Action (P4CA), among others.



Mayor Oumar Ba

Mayor of Ndiob City,
President of Senegal Green
and Ecological Cities Network

Oumar BA, a former senior official of the Senegalese government, decided to leave the administration to become actively involved in the associative movements. According to his vision, this will allow him to be closer to the populations and to implement development projects. He is a recognized actor of local community development for having been the director of several NGOs. He is also a nature lover and a militant of the agroecological approach.

To better implement his agro-ecological vision, he will be elected Mayor of the commune of Ndiob in 2014. His green vision has been awarded the trophy for the best local agricultural policy by the FAO during the general assembly held in Rome in 2018 and the prize for best climate initiatives during the Africities 8 Summit in Marrakech in 2018 for the implementation of his project "Green and Resilient Commune". Mr. BA is promoting an alternative development structured around the promotion of agroecology, agroforestry, and renewable energy.

A committed activist for the African cause, he will participate in several world summits on climate and on the agroecological transition.



Mr. Aklilu Fikresilassie

Director, Thriving Resilient Cities,
WRI Africa; & Representative of
WRI In Ethiopia

Aklilu Fikresilassie is Director of Thriving Resilient Cities at WRI Africa and Representative of WRI in Ethiopia.

Aklilu has more than 16 years of professional leadership and technical experiences in the field of Urban Development and Management as well as managing non-governmental programmes. Prior to joining WRI, Aklilu spent 7 years at United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as a Programme Manager, representing the agency in Ethiopia. While working with the UN-Habitat, Aklilu has successfully represented the agency in the United Nations Country Team and played a key role in positioning the urban agenda in the UN joint programmes and supported the Ethiopian Government's endeavor towards Sustainable urbanization. He also worked with UNDP in South Sudan as Planning Specialist and team leader. Further, Aklilu led the bureau of Finance and Economic Development where he managed the government and NGOs, bilateral and multilateral programmes.

In addition to his managerial and technical role, Aklilu is a researcher on thematic areas such as urbanization, environment, water resources and common pool resources.

Aklilu is a qualified Urban and Development planning, monitoring and evaluation specialist with a Master of Arts degree in Urban Management and Development (specialization: Urban and Regional development strategies) from Erasmus University, the Netherlands (2006).



Mr. Befkadu Mewded

Associate Researcher,
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute,
Ethiopia

Befkadu Mewded has been serving at Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute as Botanist from 2017 to date and as a biologist from 2013 to 2017. His responsibilities primarily included conserving the country's forest ecosystem and plant diversity components through appropriate conservation strategies.

Currently, he is an Associate researcher of Botany at Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and has been conducting research in forest biodiversity conservation and management issues.

He received my MSc degree in Biodiversity Conservation and Management from Hawassa University Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources and BSc degree in Biology from Dire Dawa University.



Ms. Liz Muange

Investment and Value Chain
Lead, Sustainable Urban Economic
Development Programme
(SUED) Kenya

Liz Muange is the Investment and Value Chain Lead for the Sustainable Urban Economic Development Programme. This UKAid funded programme supports 12 municipalities in Kenya to develop Urban Economic Plans and attract investment for Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Value Chain projects. She has previously worked at the Global Development Incubator (Aceli Africa), Development Alternatives Inc. (USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub), the African Guarantee Fund, Lattice Consulting and Deloitte.

She has over 12 years of experience in finance and investment advisory, structuring blended finance initiatives, project management and evaluation, entrepreneurship development and risk management. She sits on various advisory and investment committees. She has work experience in over 10 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

She has an Executive Education from the University of Oxford on Impact Measurement, a Master in International Relations from the Catholic University of Milan and a B. Comm (Hons.) from the University of Nairobi.

She is a member of the Global Future Council – Cities of Tomorrow and Global Shapers Community Nairobi Hub of the World Economic Forum and a Fellow of the Young and Emerging Leaders Program of the LÉO Africa Institute.



Dex Agourides is Director for Africa and Europe and he is based in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

Prior to taking up this position at GGGI, Dex was Executive Director at Ernst & Young (EY) based in Brussels, leading international projects. Overall, Dex Agourides has more than 20 years of experience in areas primarily related to development policy and implementation. He has strong track record advising beneficiary governments and agencies on enhancing technical cooperation and improving performance of complex programs. He has worked extensively with the EU in sub-Saharan Africa and MENA region, as well as in countries with economies in transition in the Balkans and in Central Asia. Between 2005 and 2010, he served as head of the Greek Government Agency for the EU Structural Funds employing more than 1000 full time professionals.

Dex studied Law & Public Administration and further obtained two Masters Degrees in International Relations and in Development Economics from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium.

Mr. Dexippos Agourides

Regional Director for Africa, GGGI

About GGGI

Founded to support and promote the mainstreaming of green growth, GGGI programs and projects target economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea, GGGI has 40 members with operations in over 35 countries.

