



PANELLISTS - PART 1



MODERATOR

DR. ACHIM WENNMANN

Director for Strategic Partnerships of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, where he is also a Lecturer and Senior Researcher. He has over 20 years of experience in strategic management of complex projects across research, policy, and practitioner communities, and has published widely on peace, conflict and security issues for academic and policy audiences. Publications with a focus on cities include *Illicit Economies Through the Lens of Urban Peace: Towards a New Policy Agenda*, *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development* Vol.2, No.2 (2021), pp.256-266. *Urban Safety and Peacebuilding: New Perspectives on Sustaining Peace in the City*. London: Routledge (2019, edited with Oliver Jütersonke). *Crossing the New Frontier: Peace Mediation in the City*. Oslo Forum Paper (Geneva: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2018). Forthcoming later in 2023 is the research paper on *Activating Pragmatic Peacebuilding for Climate Change Adaptation in Cities*.



NICOLAS GHARBI

Urban and regional planner, expert in governance and place-based investments. After starting as researcher and urban planner on the ground, namely on the Dominican-Haitian border, Peru and Portugal, he joined the European Commission. He has been working at the Urban and Territorial competence centre of the European Commission, first as Policy analyst contributing the urban and territorial dimension of EU policies and legislative packages as well as negotiator for the urban and territorial dimension of European Investment Structural Funds; then as Policy Coordinator for Global Urban Affairs responsible for the multilateral dimension of EU urban policies including as EU lead technical negotiator for the UN urban related negotiations. He has then joined the Madrid City Council for two mandates of opposite political sign as Principal Advisor for City Diplomacy and International Affairs, in charge of strategic planning as well as coordination of specific files including the City Resilience and Recovery Plan, Madrid 2030 Urban Agenda and the City International and economic intelligence strategy. Is also a member of the International Society of Cities and Regional Planners, expert on SDG for Cities for the Brookings Institute, a fellow of the Columbia University on City Diplomacy, member of the German Marshall Fund Director General Cities Network and an expert of several UN and OECD urban related expert groups.



STEFAN WAGNER

Head of the Department of International Affairs and Global Sustainability of the City of Bonn since 2013. He is responsible for Bonn's expansion as a Germany's United Nations city and a global hub for sustainable development. He is also in charge of maintaining Bonn's international relations. Since 2009, Bonn has maintained friendly relations with the City of Chengdu (PR China). From 2003- 2013, Mr. Wagner was deputy head of the Executive Board Department for International Affairs and Protocol of the City of Bonn. Previously, he worked as a PR consultant in the field of political communication at an international PR agency. Mr. Wagner holds a degree in administrative sciences from the University of Konstanz. He is married, has two children and lives in Bonn



BEKKUL DZHEKSHENKULOV

Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol for the city of Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic for almost 3 years. With over 15 years of experience in the field of international relations, Bekkul is responsible for overseeing Bishkek city's foreign aid and development programs, as well as promoting international cooperation and partnerships with other countries, cities and international organizations. Born and raised in Bishkek, graduated with a Master's degree in Law from the Kyrgyz National University named after Dzhusup Balasayn. After completing his studies, Bekkul began his career as an intern at the Kyrgyz – American Company "Vostok", and has held a variety of positions in private companies, international organisations and projects throughout his career. In 2020, he was appointed to the position of Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Bishkek Mayor's Office.





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JOSE REIS

Principal Policy Officer at the Greater London Authority, where he leads on economic policy and strategy, including contributing to the Mayor of London's approach to supporting a fair and green recovery from the economic crisis resulting from COVID-19, Brexit and the recent inflationary pressures. He has previously contributed to developing London's first Urban Resilience Strategy, published in 2019 as part of the 100 Resilient Cities Programme. Before joining the GLA, José worked as a Senior Consultant at Metro Dynamics where he developed local economic development strategies for several UK cities and regions. José has previously worked as an academic researcher and lecturer in the universities of Porto and Cambridge. He is trained as a Civil Engineer and Urban Planner (University of Porto) and completed a PhD in Land Economy at the University of Cambridge in 2015.



TASSOS KRIEKOUKIS

Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Athens, City of Athens, Greece. He joined Diplomatic Service in 1974 and since then worked as Embassy Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens; Secretary of Embassy, Paris, France; Consul of Greece, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Head of Mission); Consul General of Greece, Dortmund, Germany; Counsellor of Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens (Head of Latin America Department); Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union; First Ambassador of Greece in Georgia; Director for European External Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens; Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. He was also elected President of the United Nations Security Council Compensation Commission for the War in Iraq and in 2005 promoted to the grade of Full Ambassador. He also worked as Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens and Ambassador of Greece in the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2010 he retired with the title of Ambassador i.h. During his work life he also obtained several orders and distinctions such as Grand Cross of the Order of the Phoenix (Greece); Grand Officer of the Order of Merit (Federal Republic of Germany); Grand Cross in gold of the Order of Merit (Austria); Grand Cross of the Order of Merit (Spain); Knight of Merit (France) and more.



GENCI KOJDHEHI

General Director of Integration, Strategic Planning and Economic Development at the Municipality of Tirana. Genci has been with the Municipality since November 2015, working on main infrastructural projects, policy design, integration and EU projects, and was the leader of the team that led Tirana towards the European Youth Capital 2022 and European City of Sports 2023 awards. Prior engagements with the public administration include executive positions within the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the Ministry of Interior, while he has also worked with international organizations such as World Vision, UNDP, and OSCE. Genci holds a BA in Law and an MA in International Law and Human Rights, while he has had over 10 years of lecturing experiences in various public and private universities in Tirana, in subjects including international human rights, comparative international law, international relations, roman law, history of institutions, etc.



DMITRY SHLAPACHENKO

Mr. Dmitry Shlapachenko of Ukraine has devoted more than **21 years to working for the United Nations (UNDP, DPKO, DPA) both in HQ and in the field**. He also served as a Team Leader for the Horn of Africa as well as UNITAMS backstopping teams in DPPA-DPO. His postings included Tajikistan, Kosovo, New York, Vienna, Iraq and Somalia. His functions ranged from development and socio-economic issues to civil affairs, constitution-making, strategic planning, UN coordination, minority rights and political affairs. Prior to joining the UN System in 1999, he worked with US Peace Corps, OSCE and was a prolific writer on international politics for leading publications in Ukraine.



AŠA ROGELJ

Ms. Rogelj is **Deputy Director General at Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia** since 2020. Before that she was Head of Urban Development and Land Management Division. She is also Vice-chair of the Bureau of the Committee Vice-chair of the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since 2019.



GIULIO DE CARLI

Co-Founder and Managing Partner of One Works and a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence (ExSUF). As a trained Architect with over 30 years' of international experience, he specialises in the planning and design of transport and aviation-related facilities and infrastructures, providing consultancy to government authorities, operating companies and industry-related clients, as well as public-private partnership deals.



PANELLISTS - PART 1



GIAMPIERO BAMBAGIONI

Urban Economist, expert in Sustainable Finance and ESG Investments Evaluation, with extensive experience at both institutional and professional levels and in the PPPs. Giampiero is lecturer of Economic evaluation of projects at the Faculty of Architecture of the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy). In the framework of sustainable urban development at an international level, he supports the transformation policies of urban settlements into more livable and resilient Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) on the basis of the United Nations SDGs. Since October 2021, he is serving as Vice Chair of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development Housing and Land Management. Giampiero has published many papers and works. Under his leadership has been elaborated – with the involvement of an international Task Force – the UNECE Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets (2010-2019), UN official publications.



ADRIAN BĂLUȚEL

State Secretary of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Previously, Member of Parliament and Secretary of the Foreign Affairs and EU integration Parliamentary Committee, in the period of 2020 - 2021 he held the position of parliamentary assistant and adviser on foreign policy to the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. During his career he also held the office of State Secretary on Youth and Sports of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. He was an associated expert on EU integration to the Institute of European Policies and Reforms and Project Associate to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Chisinau's Office. Adrian's Professional background include work of EaP Civil Society Forum and vice-president position to the National NGO Council of Moldova and during university years in National Youth Council of Moldova. Adrian's career is strongly related to good governance and Moldova's EU integration. He hold a bachelors degree in Economics and a master of arts from the College of Europe in Natolin, specialising on EU's neighbourhood policy.



LAURA LIMA

Head of Global Programmes at UNOPS - Cities Alliance in Brussels. She has extensive experience in areas related to fragility, peacebuilding, governance and gender in Africa and Latin America. She has previously worked as Peace and Development Advisor to the Resident Coordinator in Mozambique (UNDP, 2018 -2023), as Gender and Urban Specialist (UNOPS, 2014-2018), and as a member of the Gender Unit in Nairobi (UN-Habitat, 2013-2014). She holds a Post-Doctorate on Gender and Conflict (Social Science Research Council), a PhD on International Security (Aberystwyth University, Wales) and MA's in International Politics (UFF - Brazil), International History (UERJ - Brazil) and Management in Human Rights (UCAM - Brazil).



SORCHA EDWARDS

General Secretary of Housing of Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing since 2014. Housing Europe brings together public, cooperative and social housing providers from across Europe. They share a vision of a Europe which provides access to decent and affordable housing for all in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential. The sector manages 25 million homes and delivers over 200,000 new homes and renovations annually. Sorcha leads the team and coordinates the network for maximum impact aiming at better regulation, better knowledge and better finance for housing in EU and International policy-making. Under her leadership Housing Europe has become a point of reference for sustainable housing systems in Europe and beyond. Sorcha's academic career which led her to this position covered business and languages at Dublin City University, University of Salamanca & University of Ulster, to a Masters in European studies at the University of Leuven and a post graduate diploma in sustainability in the build environment at the East London University.



ANH THU DUONG

Co-Director, Policy and Partnerships, Geneva Cities Hub. Before joining the Geneva Cities Hub as Co-Director, Anh Thu has worked 15 years at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), where she contributed to the multilateral engagement of Switzerland with the United Nations and other International Organizations. She has extensive diplomatic multilateral expertise in human rights and humanitarian affairs. During her tenure at the Swiss FDFA, she was seconded to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Presidency of the Human Rights Council. Anh Thu holds an Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, a Master degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies and a Master of Arts in Politics and International Relations from the University of New South Wales, Australia.