

## Bios High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Action



**Adnan Amin**, Mr. Adnan Amin, development economist with a specialty in sustainable development. Served as the first Director-General of IRENA & has worked in a variety of senior positions within the UN.

Contribution: Energy / sustainable development

Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.

- Adnan Amin is a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center where he works on the Geopolitics of Energy Project.
- Following a distinguished career at the United Nations which included leading UN reform for system wide coherence and as head of the UN System Chief Executives Board Secretariat in New York, he was elected as the first Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency. IRENA is the first universal treaty-based multilateral organization headquartered in the Middle East in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and which participates regularly in the work of institutions such as the G7, G20 and the United Nations.
- As DG, Adnan led the building of a new institution to support the international community in the transition to a sustainable energy future, turning the agency into a leading player in the global energy transition based on its cutting edge analytical, technical, and advisory services to member countries.



**Marc Benioff, Chief Executive Officer,  
Salesforce**

- Contribution: real economy, business, private sector
  - Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.
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- Benioff founded Salesforce in 1999, and it is now a Fortune 500 company with 50,000 employees, guided by four core values — trust, customer success, innovation and equality.
  - The company has been recognized as the Most Innovative Company by Forbes, a Best Place to Work by Fortune, and the 10th Most Admired Company in the World by Fortune.
  - Benioff was named “Innovator of the Decade” by Forbes and is recognized as one of the World’s 25 Greatest Leaders by Fortune and one of the 10 Best-Performing CEOs by Harvard Business Review.
  - Building a different kind of company, Benioff created Salesforce to not only develop great products, but also to have a positive impact on the world. On day 1, Benioff created the 1-1-1 model of philanthropy, which leverages the resources of Salesforce to improve communities around the world. Today, more than 9,000 companies have adopted the 1-1-1 model through the Pledge 1% movement.
  - A member of the World Economic Forum ("WEF") Board of Trustees, Benioff serves as the inaugural Chair of WEF's Forum Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco.



**Mark Carney**, Special Envoy to the Secretary-General for Climate Action and Finance

Contribution: finance, business, private sector

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in SG climate strategy 2020-21

- Mr. Carney has held numerous positions in finance in both the private and public sectors. Previously, he was the Governor of the Bank of England. He also served, from 2011 to 2018, as Chair of the Financial Stability Board and Governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008-2013.
- Mr. Carney began his career at Goldman Sachs before joining the Canadian Department of Finance and later serving as the Governor of the Bank of Canada (2008-2013). He was born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Canada in 1965. He received a bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University in 1988. He went on to receive a master's degree in Economics in 1993 and a doctorate in Economics in 1995, both from Oxford University.



**Nisreen Elsaim**, Chair and rotating representative of UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Contribution: youth mobilization, resilience & adaptation, climate justice

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in SG climate strategy 2020-21

- Nisreen Elsaim (Sudan) is a climate activist and junior negotiator at intergovernmental climate change platforms with experience across a range of environmental topics, and she was part of the social movement that brought about democratic change in Sudan.
- Elsaim holds a Physics and Renewable energy degree from the University of Khartoum. She has actively been involved in youth climate activism since 2012.



**Cristiana Figueres**, founding partner of Global Optimism Ltd., and convenor of Mission 2020

Contribution: Civil Society

Priority for HLAG: (3) Outreach to key stakeholders including civil society and the private sector

- Ms. Figueres was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2010-2016.
- Assuming responsibility for the international climate change negotiations after the failed Copenhagen conference of 2009, she was determined to lead the process to a universally agreed regulatory framework. Building toward that goal, she directed the successful Conferences of the Parties in Cancun 2010, Durban 2011, Doha 2012, Warsaw 2013, and Lima 2014, and culminated her efforts in the historical Paris Agreement of 2015.
- Throughout her tenure Ms. Figueres brought together national and sub national governments, corporations and activists, financial institutions and communities of faith, think tanks and technology providers, NGOs and parliamentarians, to jointly deliver the unprecedented climate change agreement. For this achievement Ms. Figueres has been credited with forging a new brand of collaborative diplomacy.
- Since then Ms. Figueres has continued to accelerate the global response to climate change. Today she is the co-founder of Global Optimism, co-host of the podcast “Outrage & Optimism” and is the co-author of the recently published book, “The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis. She is a non executive Board member of ACCIONA.



**Leila Fourie**, Ms. Leila Fourie, Chief Executive Officer of Johannesburg Stock Exchange and co-chair of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD)

Contribution: private finance, supply chains, corporate leadership

Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.

- Leila’s business career spans more than 20 years working in consulting, investment banking, retail banking & capital markets.
- Her diverse experience has been acquired in some of South Africa’s leading companies in these fields, including Accenture, Standard Bank & the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.
- Through the course of her career, Leila has held senior executive positions & directorships of global portfolios, local boards & US boards. Her board roles have included that of non executive director, executive director & managing director. Leila has also served in the capacity as chairman of the board.
- Over the course of her career, Leila has gained experience in turnarounds; set up of two new Greenfields organisations; established new global and local divisions within a multi-national organisation; launched new products; established and closed down joint ventures; advocated on national policy matters; and maintained existing revenue producing and support functions.
- Leila holds a Ph.D in Economic & Financial Sciences.



**Vladimir M. Kattsov**, Member of the World Climate Research Programme WCRP IPCC Lead Author and member of WMO Science advisory Panel.

Contribution: Science

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in the Secretary-General's climate action strategy 2020-21.

- Vladimir Kattsov is a research scientist (since 1988) and the director (since 2007) of the Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory (MGO, St.Petersburg).
- His research includes global climate 3D modelling with a focus on the polar climate dynamics and model evaluation (author or co-author of about 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, books, and reports). He was a lead author of the IPCC 3rd (2001), 4th (2007), and 5th (2013, 2014) Assessment Reports, as well as of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA, 2005) and the two Russian national climate assessments (Roshydromet, 2008 and 2014).
- Since 2000, Dr. Kattsov has been with the WMO/ICSU/IOC of UNESCO's World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) as a member of the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE, 2000-2005); "Climate and Cryosphere" project's Scientific Steering Group (CliC SSG, 2007-2008); and currently – Joint Steering Committee (WCRP JSC, since 2009; as its vice-chair since 2013). He is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center (APCC SAC, since 2006).
- He is a member of editorial boards of a number of Russian scientific journals.



**Rachel Kyte**, 14th dean of The Fletcher School at Tufts University

Contribution: Energy

Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.

- Rachel Kyte is serving as the Dean of The Fletcher School at Tufts University, and the first woman to lead the oldest graduate-only school of international affairs in the United States.
- She is the former Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All, and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All.
- Kyte served until December 2015 as World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, leading the Bank Group's efforts to campaign for an ambitious agreement at the 21st Convention of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 21). She was previously World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development and was the International Finance Corporation Vice President for Business Advisory Services.
- Recipient of numerous awards for women's leadership, climate action, and sustainable development, she is a professor of practice in sustainable development at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.
- She was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to energy and combating climate change.



**Ajay Mathur**, Director General of The Energy & Resources Institute, and member of the Prime Minister Modi's Council on Climate Change

Contribution: India / Energy

Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.

- Ajay Mathur is the director general of The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, and a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change.
- Mathur earlier headed the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency, and was responsible for mainstreaming energy efficiency through initiatives such as the Star Labeling program for appliances, the Energy Conservation Building Code, and the Perform, Achieve & Trade program for energy-intensive industries.
- He was a leading climate change negotiator, and was the Indian spokesperson at the Paris climate negotiations. He served as the interim director of the Green Climate Fund during its foundational period.
- At TERI, Mathur has spearheaded the move to accelerate action towards a low-carbon and cleaner economy through the adoption of renewable energy in the Indian electricity sector, enhancing efficiency in buildings and industry, and promoting environmental quality through recycling of material wastes and biotechnology-based solutions.
- He also co-chairs the Global Energy Transitions Commission, and one of the climate initiatives of the One Planet Summit.





**Sara Menker**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Gro Intelligence

Contribution: Food Systems / Trade / Supply Chains

Priority for HLAG: (2) The engagements required to deliver truly transformational, impactful climate action in the real economy.

- Prior to founding Gro, Sara was a Vice President in Morgan Stanley's commodities group. She began her career in commodities risk management, where she covered all commodity markets, and subsequently moved to trading, where she managed an options trading portfolio.
- Sara is a Trustee of the Mandela Institute For Development Studies (MINDS) and a Trustee of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Sara was named a Global Young Leader by the World Economic Forum and is a fellow of the African Leadership Initiative of the Aspen Institute.
- Sara received a B.A. in Economics and African Studies at Mount Holyoke College and the London School of Economics and an M.B.A. from Columbia University.



**Seyni Nafo**, Climate Ambassador, Mali, and former chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change

Contribution: Africa, political dynamics of negotiations

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in his climate strategy 2020-21

- Ambassador Seyni NAFO (39 years old), Secretary General of the African Adaptation Initiative Foundation, is the High Representative of the President of the Republic of Mali for Climate.
- Ambassador Nafo served as Spokesperson for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), a position that he has held since 2011. He also acts as coordinator of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI), a continent wide initiative, endorsed by the African Union Assembly, which aims to strengthen adaptation to climate impacts in Africa.
- Over the course of his career, Ambassador Nafo has made significant contributions to Africa, and the developing world, in the fields of climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development. From 2010-2012, Ambassador Nafo served as special adviser to AMCEN President, HE Pr Minister Sangaré of Mali.
- In 2015 he played an instrumental role in the initiation of the AAI and acted as lead negotiator for the AGN and the G77 plus China Group during the 2015 Paris Conference of the Parties (COP). He also co-chaired the UN Expert Body on Climate Finance (UNFCCC's Standing Committee on Finance) in 2015 and 2016 and has been advising African Members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Fund Transitional Committee since 2011.
- Ambassador Nafo also played a leading role in the formulation of other major African initiatives to combat climate change in the Sahel Region, the Congo Basin, on African islands and in its ocean economy. In recognition of his contribution to national, continental and international efforts to combat climate change and support sustainable development, Ambassador Nafo received the honorary distinction of Knight of the National Order of Mali in 2016.



**Meg Taylor**, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum

Contribution: SIDS

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in SG climate strategy 2020-21

- Dame Meg Taylor was appointed Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2014, she became the first woman to hold this post.
- A national of Papua New Guinea, she began her professional life as Private Secretary to Chief Minister Michael Somare during self-government of Papua New Guinea, and then during his tenure as Prime Minister of an independent Papua New Guinea. She practiced law with the Office of the Public Solicitor and in the private sector, and served as a member of the Law Reform Commission.
- She was Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the United States, Mexico and Canada in Washington, DC from 1989-1994. In 2002, she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.
- Dame Meg has served on the board of the Bank of Papua New Guinea and on the boards of a number of companies in Papua New Guinea in the natural resources, financial, and agricultural sectors, as well as on the boards of companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. She has also served on the boards of international conservation and research organizations.
- She was appointed to the post of Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) of the World Bank Group in 1999 following a selection process led by civil society, industry, and academia.



**Laurence Tubiana** Chief Executive Officer of the European Climate Foundation

Contribution: Civil Society, European Union

Priority for HLAG: (3) Outreach to key stakeholders including civil society and the private sector

- Laurence Tubiana is CEO of the European Climate Foundation (ECF).
- In addition to her role at ECF, she is the Chair of the Board of Governors at the French Development Agency (AFD), and a Professor at Sciences Po, Paris.
- Before joining ECF, Laurence was France’s Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for COP21, and as such a key architect of the landmark Paris Agreement. Following COP21, she was appointed High Level Champion for climate action.
- Laurence brings decades of expertise. From 1997—2002, she served as Senior Adviser on the Environment to the French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. From 2009—2010, she created and led the newly established Directorate for Global Public Goods at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- She founded in 2002 and directed until 2014 the Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). She has held academic positions including Sciences Po and as Professor of International Affairs at Columbia University. She has been a member of numerous boards and scientific committees, including the Chinese Committee on the Environment and International Development (CCICED).



**Xie Zhenhua**, President of Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University

Contribution: China

Priority for HLAG: (1) The achievement of the objectives in his climate strategy 2020-21

- Formerly: Vice-Chairman (minister level), National Development and Reform Commission; Minister, former State Environmental Protection Agency; Administrator, former National Environmental Protection Agency; Vice-Chairman, Committee on Population, Resources and Environment, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, 12th session; Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of China (CPC), 16th and 18th sessions; Member, Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, CPC, 15th and 17th sessions. Since April 2015, Special Representative for Climate Change Affairs of China (minister level).
- He has overseen environmental protection, resource conservation, energy saving and pollution reductions and climate change affairs in China.
- As Head, Chinese negotiation delegation to the UN Climate Conferences since 2007, played role in adoption, signing and entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the adoption of Paris Agreement implementation rules.
- He has promoted cooperation on energy conservation, emission reductions and green and low-carbon development between China and 30 countries, regions and international organizations, and helped train 1,000 officials and technicians working in the field of climate change for 100 developing countries.
- Recipient: GEF Global Leadership Award (2002); UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize and World Bank Special Green Award (2003); Alliance to Save Energy's Energy Efficiency Visionary Award (2009); WWF Livable Planet Leadership Award (2015); Lui Che Woo Sustainability Prize (2017).