High-Level Plenary: Delivering the Temperature Goal

Ovais Sarmad  
UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary

Joining the UNFCCC on 1 September 2017, Ovais Sarmad supports the Executive Secretary in managing the operations of UNFCCC secretariat and its staff and organizational development, advising on a range of issues relating to the inter-governmental affairs and strategic planning.

Previously he served as Chief of Staff/Chef de Cabinet at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva. He graduated from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, as a Bachelor of Commerce.

Youba Sokona  
IPCC Vice-Chairman

Youba Sokona was elected Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2015. He is also the Special Advisor for Sustainable Development at the South Centre. With over 35 years of experience addressing energy, environment and sustainable development in Africa, Youba Sokona is a well-known, leading global figure. Youba Sokona’s advice is highly sought after, and as such, he is affiliated with numerous boards and organisations, including as a Member of the Board for the Institute of Development Studies and as a Special Advisor to the African Energy Leaders Group.

Coulibaly épouse Dao Macoura  
Mayor of Foumbolo Commune, Côte d’Ivoire

An engineer by training, Macoura Coulibaly is the mayor of Foumbolo Communie in Côte d’Ivoire. She plays an important role in local and regional politics. She is the Vice President of the African Women Elected Network and the Regional Director of Transport. For her work, she was awarded the Laureate du Prix d’Excellence du 2ème Meilleur Élu Local Édition in 2017.
Ayman Cherkaoui
Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection

Ayman Cherkaoui is an expert in climate change law who focuses on technical negotiations under the UNFCCC and legal innovations to support adaptation and mitigation in climate vulnerable countries. In addition to his role as coordinator of the Mohammed VI Foundation, he is also Lead Counsel for Climate Change Centre for International Sustainable Development Law in Canada. Previously, Cherkaoui served as special advisor for Climate Change and Negotiations to the Minister of the Environment, Morocco, and a special advisor to the UNFCCC COP22 Presidency.

Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
African Union Commissioner

Josefa Sacko was elected as the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AU in 2016. Previously, Mrs Sacko was the special adviser to the Minister of Agriculture in Angola, assigned with the responsibility of advising on issues related to international cooperation both bilateral and multilateral. She was also elected the Secretary General of Inter-African coffee organization, with a special mandate to represent the economic interest of the 25 African Coffee producers, manage the Secretariat and present recommendations.

Cheikh Dieng
Senegal Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

As a Cabinet Director, Cheikh Dieng coordinates the work of the ministry under the authority of the minister. Previously, he was the Cabinet Director of the Minister of Tourism and Air Transport from 2014 to 2015. A lawyer by training, he was the Deputy Prosecutor of Dakar from 2007 to 2012 and a judge at the Diourbel Regional Court in 2007. He receives his Master’s Degree in Political Science and International Public Policy from Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in France.
Vanessa Gyan (Moderator)
TV & Radio Personality

With degrees in TV and radio communications, public relations, & journalism from Brooklyn College, Vanessa has brought both her educational background and years of work experience from the US to Ghana. Vanessa has also officially launched Sincerely, Vee; a lifestyle brand geared to providing a comfort zone for young girls and women.