

Newcastle University, World Federalist Movement-Canada,  
IASS Potsdam and Mediators Beyond Borders International  
bring you a participatory conference

# Better Climate Governance Matters:

Supporting Global Climate Action by Improving  
the Effectiveness of UNFCCC Meetings

APRIL 19, 2021 • 1-5PM (UTC) • ZOOM



[WWW.BETTERCLIMATEGOVERNANCE.COM](http://WWW.BETTERCLIMATEGOVERNANCE.COM)

# Welcome

Thank you for participating in the Better Climate Governance Matters conference. We are excited to be hosting this event at which UNFCCC parties, secretariat members, observers, academics and other non-national actors can exchange ideas about how the UNFCCC meetings can be shaped to improve their effectiveness in supporting global climate action in the 2020s.

The conference report will present the ideas for improving climate negotiations as shared by the speakers and by those who attend the conference. The participatory format will allow this exchange of ideas. We will also launch the Better Climate Governance Network of leading actors interested in improving the effectiveness of climate governance within and beyond the UNFCCC.

We welcome you on behalf of the conference sponsors:

- Newcastle University
- World Federalist Movement - Canada
- Mediators Beyond Borders International
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam.

## **About the Better Climate Governance Project**

The Better Climate Governance project started in 2019 as a partnership between an academic specializing in UNFCCC process (Dr. Katharine Rietig, Newcastle University) and a professional facilitator and mediator (Christine Peringer, World Federalist Movement-Canada and Mediators Beyond Borders International). The project explores how the world can improve the effectiveness of UNFCCC negotiations. We are focused on:

- How can UNFCCC decision-making and knowledge-sharing be improved, e.g., which formats support a culture of communication that is more conducive for effective negotiation and climate action?
- How can countries best leverage the learning of others, e.g., through knowledge transfer and capacity building?
- How would formats need to change to make better use of non-national actors?

We share our work in presentations, policy briefs (in process) and an academic paper (Fall 2021). Completed work is posted on the website <https://betterclimategovernance.com/>. This is our first conference and we are pleased to have you participating.

Enjoy the event!

Dr. Katharine Rietig  
Christine Peringer, JD



# Agenda

Hour	Activity
13:00 (UTC)	<b>Welcome</b> a. Partner greetings b. Meeting purpose & process
	<b>Keynote Panel</b> <b>Why Better Climate Governance Matters: Urgency, Issues and Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manuel Pulgar Vidal, President COP20, former Minister of Environment of Peru</li><li>• Christine Fung, Special Adviser to the Fiji High-Level Climate Champion, COP23</li><li>• Martin Frick, former Sr. Director, UNFCCC Policy and Programme Coordination</li><li>• Felicity Morrison, Head of Implementation Negotiations at Cabinet Office UK Presidency COP26</li></ul>
	<b>Discussion</b>
14:00 (UTC)	<b>* Break*</b>
	<b>Presentations</b> <b>Landscape of possible change: Sharing Ideas and Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Building Bridges amongst formal and informal groups established in the UNFCCC negotiations" Rita Mishaan, Ambassador of Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala</li><li>• "Co-Creative Reflection &amp; Dialogue Space" Dorota Stasiak, Project Leader, IASS Potsdam</li><li>• "Making better use of non-national actors" Crispin d'Auvergne, former UNFCCC negotiator Government of St. Lucia</li><li>• "Improving UNFCCC process through facilitation approaches" Katharine Rietig, Newcastle University &amp; Christine Peringer, WFM-C and MBI</li></ul>

# Agenda

Hour	Activity
15:00 (UTC)	Q&A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “How to Improve UNFCCC Meetings: A Mediator’s Recommendations” Kenneth Cloke, Director, Center for Dispute Resolution and Founder, Mediators Beyond Borders International</li></ul>
	<b>Small Group Discussion:</b> 1. How can we improve formats to support more effective negotiation & action? 2. How can we improve learning between parties? 3. How can we make better use of non-national actors? 4. What other ideas to improve negotiations could be further explored?
16:00 (UTC)	*Break*
	Plenary Reflection
	<b>Next Steps</b> Event report, circulation of contact info, establishment of a working group
	<b>Closing</b> a. Reflections b. Closing comments
17:00 (UTC)	* Adjournment*

# Keynote Panel

## Manuel Pulgar Vidal

President COP20, former Minister of Environment of Peru



Manuel Pulgar Vidal is the Global Leader of Climate & Energy at World Wildlife Fund. He has 35 years of experience in environmental law and policy and served as Minister of the Environment of Peru (2011 to 2016) and President of the Twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP20 in 2014.

Pulgar Vidal was the Executive Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, an influential institution in Latin America. He has a law degree from the Pontificia

Universidad Católica del Perú, where he is a professor, and has completed studies for a master's degree in Business Law at the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas. He is a board member of Forest Trends, Amazon Conservation Association and Peruvian Society of Environmental Law and a member of the Assembly of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Colombia.

He has recently been added to the Aspen Institute Management and Leadership Advisory Group and is the chairman of the evaluation council of the French sovereign Green Bonds. He is an active member of different groups aiming to get strong outcomes as a part of the formal climate talks and the non-party stakeholders' agenda. He has been recognized by the governments of France, Germany and Spain and by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his contribution to the Paris Agreement.



# Keynote Panel

## Christine Fung

Special Adviser, Fiji COP23 Presidency Team and Chief of Staff to the Fiji High-level Champion



Christine Fung is the Senior Technical Adviser of the Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme of Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ). She has more than 20 years working experience in development cooperation in the Pacific Island region. She worked in 12 countries in the Pacific in the areas of sustainable forest and land management, food security, land use planning, social and environmental assessments, and climate change adaptation.

She supported the development of national and sectoral policies including facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement processes. She managed and closely engaged with partners, including local communities and indigenous peoples on the development and implementation of community-led projects in vulnerable Pacific Island communities. She is also the Fiji technical adviser on REDD+ since the inception of the national REDD+ programme in 2009. Previously, she served as the special Adviser in the Fiji COP23 Presidency Team and was Chief of Staff to the Fiji High-level Champion.

Fung has a professional background in Earth Science and Climate Change. She is an alumna of the Centre for International Postgraduate studies of Environmental Management (CIPSEM), Technical University of Dresden, Germany.

# Keynote Panel

## Martin Frick, Ph.D.

Former Sr, Director, UNFCCC Policy and Programme Coordination



Martin Frick is the Deputy of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food System Summit 2021. He served before as the Senior Director of UN Climate Change where he was overseeing the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the secretariat's Climate Action work. As programme director for former Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Foundation, he developed the founding narrative of climate justice. He previously served as Director for Climate Change at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

He was the German representative for human rights and humanitarian affairs at the UN General Assembly and served as the European Union's lead negotiator in the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council. As Ambassador to the international organizations based in Germany, he helped building up the UN's sustainability hub in Bonn. He holds a PhD in Law from Regensburg University and was a guest lecturer at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.



# Keynote Panel

## Felicity Morrison

Head of Implementation Negotiations,  
UK Cabinet Office



Felicity Morrison is currently the team leader of the UK Government Cabinet Office working on international climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC as part of the COP26 Presidency team. She previously worked for the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, and prior to that for a government affairs consultancy in London on international radiocommunications policy. She also previously worked as a negotiator on international telecommunications for the Australian Government in Canberra.

She is passionate about international affairs and thinking about how global issues being negotiated at the highest levels can shape culture and transform society, industries, and individual lives.

She has a Master of International Law and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, both from the Australian National University.



# Presentations

## Rita Mishaan

Ambassador of Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala



Ambassador Mishaan has law studies at the University of Florida, USA and a specialization in International Relations at the Foundation for International Studies in Florence, Italy. She began her diplomatic career in 1986 at the Mission of Guatemala, before United Nations, New York. Since then, she represented Guatemala at FAO, WFP and IFAD in Rome, Italy. She has dedicated her professional years following closely the environmental conventions, as well as, sustainable development issues; including the initiative and initial negotiations for the achievement of the

Sustainable Development Goals. She also participated in the development of projects and programs in the Central American region that have supported the conservation and management natural resources in the region. She was also member of the Preparatory Committee during the creation of IRENA (2009-2011) and became Co-Chair of the Working and Financing Board.

Since 2004 she has followed closely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reaching leadership in international negotiations on behalf of Guatemala. Her role as President Pro-Tempore of AILAC (Latin American and Caribbean Independent Association) during the Paris Agreement, led her to be recognized and awarded by the Government of France. Later on, as the Paris Committee on Capacity Building is conformed, she was nominated by GRULAC and became one of the 12 members for the period 2017-2019, later to become Chair on behalf of developing countries for the years 2018 and 2019.

# Presentations

## Dorota Stasiak Ph.D.

Project Leader, IASS Potsdam



Dorota Stasiak joined IASS Potsdam in September 2017 as Scientific Project Leader in the transdisciplinary project "Co-Creation and Contemporary Policy Advice". Together with her team, she tries to explore the transformative potential of co-creation through research, design and experimenting. Dorota holds degrees in Political Science (MA and PhD) and Applied Linguistics (MA) from the University of Warsaw. She completed research semesters at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München as well as at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin

für Sozialforschung as part of her DAAD scholarship. She is a certified project manager (PRINCE 2 Foundation & Practitioner, Scrum Master), as well as a trainer and facilitator (with a special focus on design thinking and innovation processes). Prior to joining IASS Potsdam, Dorota worked on several research projects (focusing mostly on advisory processes and institutions, policy-relevant expertise, and innovative policy-making approaches) and translated numerous social science books. She is committed to innovative education and (re)designing work-life-balance solutions.



# Presentations

## Crispin d'Auvergne

former UNFCCC negotiator Government of St. Lucia



Crispin d'Auvergne is a native of Saint Lucia. He is currently Programme Director for Climate and Disaster Resilience at the OECS Commission, based in Saint Lucia, a position he assumed in 2017. Prior to that worked, for many years, with the Government of Saint Lucia, in the fields of Fisheries, Natural Resources, Environment and Energy, with his final position being that of Chief Sustainable Development and Environment Officer.

For over 15 years, he served as a climate change negotiator for Saint Lucia, mostly as lead technical negotiator. During that time, he negotiated, or facilitated negotiations on, among others, Capacity-Building, Article 6 of the Convention and Response Measures. Currently, he serves on the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB).

Crispin holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies (Natural Resources) from the University of East Anglia (UK) and a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management (Climate Change) from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus).

# Presentations

## **Katharine Rietig Ph.D.**

Principal Investigator and Senior Lecturer in  
International Politics at Newcastle University, UK



Katharine is Principal Investigator and Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in International Politics at Newcastle University, UK. She is an expert in global climate change negotiations, climate change policies and transitions to low carbon societies. Her research examines how negotiation deadlocks can be resolved through learning, non-state actors and multilevel governance dynamics between countries and the United Nations, and how these dynamics facilitate policy change for more effective environmental governance. She has been participating regularly as

academic observer in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations since November 2009 and conducted various research projects on the UNFCCC negotiations focusing on the influence of non-national actors, negotiation strategies and the role of leadership by state and non-state actors.

She holds a PhD and MSc in Environmental Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an M.A. in Political Science, International Law and Economics from the University of Munich. Her research and impact activities have been funded by the UK Research and Innovation Council/ Economic and Social Research Council, the British Academy, the Wolfson Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. Her work has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals including *International Affairs*, *Global Governance*, the *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Policy Sciences*, *Public Administration*, *Environmental Politics*, *International Environmental Agreements*, as well as *Environmental Policy and Governance*.



# Presentations

## Christine Peringer JD

Facilitator



Christine is an expert in multi-stakeholder planning and problem-solving. Working in sectors including environment, sustainable development, justice and health. Clients have included the Government of Mexico (Guidelines for Mexico's Greenhouse Gas Inventory), Canadian Environmental Law Association (Great Lakes Summit), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Country Strategy for Vietnam-Canada collaborative projects) and Quaker International Affairs Project (Dialogue Process on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights).

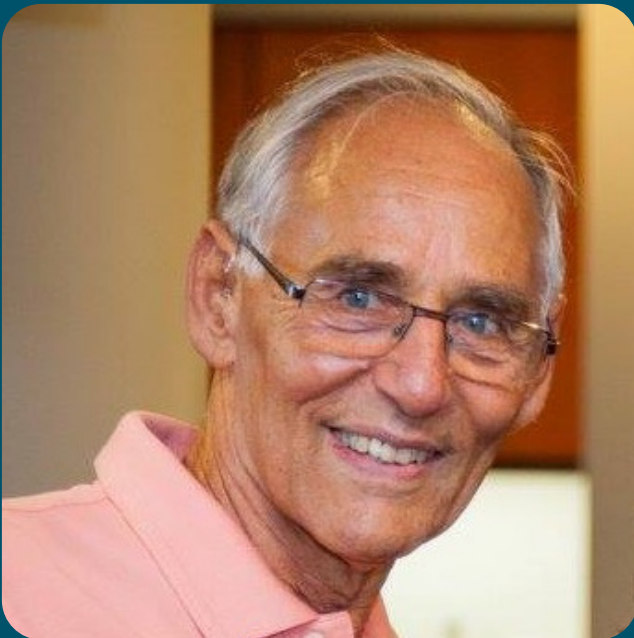
Christine holds a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, Ontario (1985) and is the author of "How We Work for Peace" Peace Research Institute - Dundas (1997). She is an active member of the Climate Change Policy Project of Mediators Beyond Borders International and has been a member of their observer team attending the UNFCCC negotiations. Since 1985 she has been a member of the World Federalist Movement - Canada and currently serves as Senior Advisor on Climate Governance.

Christine has served for twenty years as a principal in her consultancy firm, Group Facilitation and Mediation Services. For more information please see [www.peringer.ca](http://www.peringer.ca).

# Presentations

## **Kenneth Cloke Ph.D.**

Director, Center for Dispute Resolution and Founder,  
Mediators Beyond Borders International



Kenneth Cloke is a mediator, facilitator, arbitrator, coach, and trainer specializing in communication, dialogue, collaborative negotiation, consensus building, and designing preventative conflict resolution systems. He has worked in conflict resolution in over 20 countries, published 15 books on conflict resolution, was founder and first President of Mediators Beyond Borders International, and led a delegation of mediators to the Copenhagen climate change conference.



# Facilitators



**Abby Brown** is a mediator, facilitator, and natural resources attorney based in Helena, Montana, United States of America. Abby is the founder of ARB Law Group ([www.mtwaterlaw.com](http://www.mtwaterlaw.com)) and an adjunct with Brave Conversations ([www.braveconversationsllc.com/abby-brown](http://www.braveconversationsllc.com/abby-brown)). Abby is a member of Mediators Beyond Borders-International and its Climate Change Policy Project.



**Eileen Doohan** is based in Vermont, USA. She serves as Director of GloCha.org and Bioproducts Innovation Center in the LA Cleantech Incubator and has led UN-ITU partnerships for advanced mobile systems. She is a graduate of Kenneth Boulding's Conflict & Peace Studies program (University of Colorado Boulder). Eileen enjoys poetry and building digital carbon ledgers for locally-led climate actions.



**Thomas Fiutak**, Ed.D., is Senior Fellow in the Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He taught Conflict Management and Mediation Systems at the University of Minnesota and initiated and directed the Conflict and Change Center. Since 1985 as a Fellow at the Salzburg Seminar (Austria) on Dispute Resolution, he has provided negotiation training for policy makers and others in North America, Asia, Europe and Africa. A founding member of Mediators Beyond Borders, International, he co-leads the Climate Change Team.

# Facilitators



**David Kay** is based in Ithaca New York. He is a faculty member at Cornell University. David's work focuses on energy, land use, community development and regional economics. He has served on the boards of not-for-profit and government organizations concerned with sustainability and municipal land use planning. A community mediator, he also volunteers with the Climate Change Team of Mediators Beyond Borders International.



**Avinder Laroya** is a lawyer and mediator based in London and Geneva. She is a commercial and workplace mediator and arbitrator and a member of Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI). She has worked more than 20 years as a private practice lawyer in London and at her own virtual law firm Serenity Law LLP. Her services include real estate, corporate, commercial and intellectual property. In 2020 Avinder established her own conflict resolution consultancy Minute Mediation see [www.minutemediation.com](http://www.minutemediation.com)



**Miles Mabray** is Executive Director at the Center for Dialogue and Resolution. Miles has worked in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, focusing primarily on East/West conflict and international dialogue facilitation. He now works as a director, facilitation, mediator, and trainer, in Oregon, USA.



# Facilitators



**Kathy Porter** is a mediator based in the United States. She brings design and foresight thinking into her mediation practice. She draws in creative and arts-based techniques to open new sense-making pathways and facilitates the exchange of information beyond spoken and written word into embodied ways of knowing to achieve relational transformation.



**Lisa Singh** is a professional mediator, facilitator coach and intercultural trainer based in the United States who has devoted all of her professional career to helping people communicate more effectively. Lisa leads teams in creative problem solving, works with business to provide more effective meetings, and consults with communities to create public conversations that work. Lisa is an active member of the Climate Change Team of Mediators Beyond Borders International.

# Reminders

## Before the online conference:

- Review the programme schedule.
- Send your initial questions and other things you expect to learn from the session by emailing [connect@betterclimategovernance.com](mailto:connect@betterclimategovernance.com).
- Monitor your email for reminders and link to Zoom.

## On the day of the conference:

- Make sure to login to Zoom at least 5 minutes before 13:00 (UTC) .
- English will be the main language of the conference. If you have any difficulty in communicating with this language, please let us know so we can provide you support.
- The opening panel and presentation will be recorded. If you do not wish to have yourself recorded, you may turn off your video.
- Ensure that you login with the name and affiliation you used in the registration so we can check before letting you in the room (eg. Juan Santos, UP Diliman - Philippines).
- Please use your registered name throughout the event to ensure the security of the conference.
- Try to keep your camera on during the discussion to create a collegial atmosphere with other participants.
- There are scheduled breaks, but if you need to leave at other times, please turn off your camera temporarily to avoid distracting other people in the conference.
- If you have concerns during the conference, you may send a private chat to organizer Jecel Censoro or email [j.censoro2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:j.censoro2@newcastle.ac.uk).
- Turn off your microphone when not speaking to avoid unnecessary noise in the background.
- Respect each other's point of view and listen when others speak.
- Close other applications and windows you are not using in order to ensure optimal internet speed.
- Join the discussion on [Twitter](#) (@Climate\_Gov) and use the hashtag: #BCGMatters2021

## After the conference:

- Join the Better Climate Governance Network on [LinkedIn](#).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest updates: @Climate\_Gov
- Sign-up to our newsletter which can be found in our [website](#).



# Acknowledgments

The organisers would like to thank the following for their support in this event:

Our sponsors



Our partners

The logo for IASS POTSDAM, featuring the text "IASS" in a large, bold, sans-serif font above "POTSDAM" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font, with a blue circular graphic element to the right.



Mediators  
Beyond Borders  
INTERNATIONAL

Our volunteer facilitators and support team