

Interactive Expert Panel

Building resilient futures: Bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction

Tuesday, 22 March 2022, 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Speakers' Bios

Ms. Lorena Aguilar is a global leader passionate about human rights, inclusion, and sustainable development, with over three decades providing strategic contributions to national and international policies. Lorena has field experience in more than 50 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. She also served as Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

Ms. Kehkashan Basu M.S.M. is an iconic global influencer, environmentalist, champion of women and children's rights, author and musician. A Forbes 30 Under 30, and winner of the 2016 International Children's Peace Prize, Kehkashan is a UN Human Rights Champion, a National Geographic Young Explorer, and one of Canada's Top25 Women of Influence. She is the Founder-President of global social innovation enterprise Green Hope Foundation, which works at a grassroots level in 26 countries. She is a Co-Lead of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice and is the recipient of several awards including the Meritorious Service Medal of Canada.

David R. Boyd is the [Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment](#) and was appointed for a three-year term commencing August 1, 2018. He is an associate professor of law, policy, and sustainability at the University of British Columbia. He has a PhD in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from UBC, a law degree from the University of Toronto, and a business degree from the University of Alberta. His career has included serving as the executive director of Ecojustice, appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada, and working as a special advisor on sustainability for Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. He has advised many governments on environmental, constitutional, and human rights policy and co-chaired Vancouver's effort to become the world's greenest city by 2020. He is a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law, an expert advisor for the UN's Harmony with Nature Initiative, and a member of ELAW, the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide.

Ms. Minna Epps is the Head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Global Marine and Polar Programme (ocean governance, ocean and climate change, marine pollution and blue natural capital). Minna has over 20 years of experience in international conservation and development work from the field to global policy. She brings her experience from IUCN, European Commission, UNEP, WTO, and marine conservation NGOs, as well as eight years with the Marine Stewardship Council. Minna is a marine biologist with studies from Imperial College, Rhode Island School of Oceanography and UC Berkeley. She

represents IUCN in various Ocean fora and networks, and also serves as the Strategic Adviser to the Blue Action Fund, and Chair of the Blue Natural Capital Funding Facility Executive Committee.

Ms. Noelene Nabulivou is a feminist community organiser, analyst, educator and activist working for socio-economic, ecological and climate justice and universal human rights in urban informal settlements, rural and maritime Fiji, the Pacific and globally for over 35 years. Guided by autonomous feminist movements, Noelene works with communities, governments, the development sector and the UN to build bold, heterodox strategies on urgent, complex questions of human rights and development justice. She is the executive director of Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality and holds many social movement roles. In 2020, Noelene was the recipient of the International Women's Health Coalition's Joan B. Dunlop award for advocacy. She lives in Nadi, Fiji.

Dr. Sheila Oparaocha has over 22 years of experience working at the intersectionality of gender equality, women empowerment, and energy access. The 2021 recipient of the Carnot Prize, Sheila is the Director of the ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy. She initiated, developed, and led numerous programs on institutionalizing gender transformative approaches in the energy sector in developing countries, specifically in the areas of women entrepreneurship development, gender mainstreaming in energy access programs and (sub) national energy policies, international policy advocacy, research and evidence development, network building and knowledge management. Sheila is the co-facilitator of the Technical Advisory Group for the Sustainable Development Goal 7 convened by UNDESA and a member of the Steering Committee of the Health and Energy Platform for Action and the High-Level Coalition on Energy and Health that operates under the auspices of WHO.