



## Speakers and Presenters (In order of appearance)

### Monday, May 22



**Christina Otano, Senior Operations Officer, GFDRR.** She leads the Operations and Country Programs team, working to ensure all investments in resilience are designed taking into account disaster and climate risks, as well as future climate change and variability. Cristina also coordinates the gender program, which promotes a more gender-responsive approach of disaster risk management practices. Cristina has more than 15 years of experience with the World Bank and has been previously based in the Bangkok, Paris and London offices. Prior to that, she worked for the Spanish Institute of Foreign

Trade (ICEX) in Bolivia. Cristina holds a master's degree in International Public Policy from the University of London, a master's degree in International Trade from the University Carlos III Madrid, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from University of Navarre, Spain.



**Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).** Prior to BHA, she was the Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy for the International Rescue Committee, where she led efforts to reform the humanitarian aid system and promote policies to improve the lives of refugees and other conflict-affected people. She also staffed the National Security Council (NSC) at the White House, first as the Director for Humanitarian Affairs and then as the Director and Acting Senior Director for Strategic Planning. Before the NSC, Ms. Charles covered the Middle East for USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, the United States government's primary political

transition and post-conflict assistance instrument. Ms. Charles holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Geography from Dartmouth College and a Master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University.



**Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director, World Bank,** responsible for Development Policy and Partnerships. He directs the World Bank's core development work – including equitable growth, finance and institutions; human development; infrastructure; and sustainable development – and ensures its integration into operations with a special focus on climate change, fragility, human capital, and debt sustainability issues. He currently co-leads the Evolution Roadmap aimed at increasing the scale and impact of the World Bank operations and incorporating sustainability, resilience and inclusion into the Bank's work on poverty reduction and boosting shared prosperity. He

oversees the Bank's numerous partnerships including with the UN, international financial institutions (IFIs), and bilateral partners. In addition, he co-chairs the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and represents the Bank in the G7 and G20 meetings. He leads the Bank's climate engagement in the context of the annual COP convenings. As SMD, he is focused on mobilizing knowledge, talent, partnerships and communications to enhance the Bank's impact globally and in the client countries it serves.



**Stéphane Hallegatte, Senior Climate Change Adviser, World Bank.** He joined the World Bank in 2012 after 10 years of academic research in environmental economics and climate science. Mr. Hallegatte was a lead author of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He also co-led the World Bank reports *Inclusive Green Growth: The Pathway to Sustainable Development*, published in 2012 and *Decarbonizing Development* in 2015, and was member of the core writing team of the 2014 World Development Report *Risk and Opportunity: Managing Risks for Development*. Most recently, he led the World Bank reports *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*, *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*, and *Lifelines: the Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity*. He was the team leader for the World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan, a large internal coordination exercise to determine and explain how the Group will support countries in their implementation of the Paris Agreement. Mr. Hallegatte holds Ph.D in economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris).



**Marta Vicarelli, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.** Her research focuses on the risks and the socio-economic impacts of climate variability and climate change and the economics of Nature-based Solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Marta has worked for NASA, and she has been a recipient of fellowships at IIASA and Harvard University, and she completed a postdoc at the Yale University Climate and Energy Institute. She holds a B.S. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences from the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, a Master of Environmental Economics from the École Polytechnique, as well as a Master of International Affairs and a Ph.D. in Sustainable Development from Columbia University.



**Boris van Zanten, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GFDRR.** He co-leads the World Bank's Global Program on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience. In his work for the NBS Program, Boris focuses on developing tools and analytics to support scaling project development and investment in Nature-based Solutions across the Bank, with a focus on economic analysis. He holds an interdisciplinary PhD in Environmental Economics & Geography from the Institute for Environmental Studies in Amsterdam.



**Suzanne Ozment, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute's (WRI) Natural Infrastructure Initiative and Cities4Forests.** She works with financial institutions, government, and civil society to manage climate and water risk through adoption of nature-based solutions. Suzanne and her team utilize biophysical, economic, and institutional analysis to integrate natural capital into policy and investment decisions. She also leads WRI's work to promote nature mainstreaming at development finance institutions.



**Sergio Pérez, Climate, DRR and Environment team, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).** He is in charge of the Swiss contributions to key global multilateral partners working on building resilience to climate and disasters, such as GFDRR, UNDRR, GNDP and the CREWS Initiative, and he is focal point for SDC's work related to climate services and early warning systems. Previously, Sergio supported the work of the Swiss Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean on issues related to water resources management and adaptation to climate change.



**Niels Holm-Nielsen, Practice Manager, GFDRR.** Niels Holm-Nielsen is Practice Manager of GFDRR. A Danish national, he joined the Bank in 2006 as a Junior Professional Officer in the Middle East and North Africa Region. He has since held several positions in Disaster Risk Management in the Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa Regions, including most recently as Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Global Lead for Resilience and Disaster Risk Management. He holds a M.Sc. in Political Science from the University of Aarhus, Denmark.



**Edward Charles Anderson, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GFDRR.** Mr. Anderson has 15 years of experience focused on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Most recently, he was the World Bank's senior DRM and ICT specialist stationed in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. His work is at the nexus of urbanization and climate risks, and it leverages emerging technologies and methods to integrate resilience into urban planning systems. Mr. Anderson also participates on the advisory boards of European Commission smart city projects including City SDK, Krypto Labs' Drone

X Challenge, the European Space Agency's Open Science Committee and the EU's Drones in Humanitarian Action Expert Working Group.



**Pierre Chrzanowski, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GFDRR.** Pierre helps countries to collect and manage information to reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. With a background in information technology, he is part of the GFDRR Digital Earth team, which is focused on leveraging Earth Observation data and services to support World Bank operations. Pierre has experience working with geospatial technologies, digital policies, and mapping techniques, and has helped governments in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean regions. Pierre is a French national and graduated as

an Engineer in Information Management System from the University of Technology of Troyes, France.



**Isabelle Tingzon, Disaster and Climate Risk Data Fellow, GFDRR.** She is a PhD researcher and Disaster and Climate Risk Data Fellow at the GFDRR, where her work focuses on disaster risk and exposure mapping in the Caribbean as part of the Digital Earth for Resilient Infrastructure and Housing Project. Her research interests lie at the intersection of AI and Earth Observation for socioeconomic development and humanitarian response, and her previous works include poverty estimation, informal settlement detection, land use and land cover mapping, and building footprint extraction and classification, done in

collaboration with humanitarian organizations and telecommunication companies across Southeast Asia and Latin America. In her spare time, she volunteers as the technical lead of AI/ML at Women Who Code Manila and co-lead of the tutorials team at Climate Change AI.



**Alex ChUNET, Earth Observation Scientist, European Space Agency.** He is currently the European Space Agency Representative to the World Bank, hosted at GFDRR, and supports coordination of collaborative activities under the ESA partnership and the joint Space for International Development Assistance initiative across the World Bank. He previously worked for the World Bank from 2017 to 2020 as a geospatial data scientist and contributed to the deployment of earth observation techniques and their application and adoption within World Bank operations and analytical pieces. Subsequently he also led the

development of the first geospatial strategy of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). He holds a Master of Science from the London School of Economics, a Masters in Public Management from Sciences Po Paris and has completed trainings from the MIT, the French Space Agency and EUMETSAT in Data Science and Earth Observation technologies.



**Mercy Mbise, Digital Development Professor, Tanzania Resilience Academy.** Dr. Mbise is currently the Academic Lead for the Tanzania Resilience Academy and a lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Information and Communication Technologies, University of Dar es Salaam. She is an expert in digital information technologies and distance and e-learning applications as well as geospatial technologies through her involvement with the Geo-ICT and Resilience Academy projects. She has also worked in research related to Water Mapping and Water Service Provision

Management in Rural Areas, Application of Geospatial ICT Technologies in University Education, Communication and Networking Engineering.



**Mira Gupta, Digital Innovation Consultant, Digital Public Works Kenya, World Bank.** She joined the GFDRR Innovation Lab in 2017 to guide the design, monitoring and evaluation of the 12 projects of the Open Cities Africa initiative. In this role, Mira worked with local implementation teams and led the gender analysis, stakeholder engagement and user-centered design components of the work. Besides the World Bank she has also led recent program design and evaluation efforts for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the

East African Community (EAC) and the U.S. Department of State. For her work in designing human-centered and impactful foreign assistance projects, Mira was named a 2016 Impact House fellow by IDEO U and the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Social Impact Strategy. A US national, Mira holds a Master of International Affairs in Conflict Mitigation and Economic Development from Columbia University and Bachelors of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Political Science from the University of Michigan.



**Vladimir Tsirkunov, Lead DRM Specialist, GFDRR.** Mr. Tsirkunov is the Team Leader of GFDRR's Hydromet Services and Early Warning Systems thematic area. Mr. Tsirkunov has over 30 years of scientific, applied technical and project management experience in environmental and natural resource management mostly in the Europe and Central Asia region. Prior to joining the World Bank in 1994, he was the Head of the Laboratory of the Supervision of the USSR (Russian) System of Hydrochemical Monitoring and Water Quality Data Collection. Since joining the Bank, he has worked on projects related to the

preparation, appraisal and operational supervision of environmental investments, technical assistance and Global Environment Facility projects.



**Sezin Tokar, lead senior hydrometeorological hazard advisor and Disaster Risk Reduction advisor, USAID's Bureau for Assistance (BHA).** Ms. Tokar provides technical advice on how to prepare for, respond and reduce risks to climate, weather, and water-related disasters—including floods, droughts, cyclones, tsunamis, and climate variability and change. She oversees BHA's programs on hydrometeorological early warning systems, including capacity building on climate, weather, and water-related hazards, dissemination of warnings to population at risks, and community-based preparedness.

She also serves as BHA's technical lead on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and has represented the U.S. government in various global platforms and high-level working groups, including to advise on the development of international frameworks, reports, guidelines, and programs pertaining to hydrometeorology, climate, and DRR. She served as the chief of staff for the U.S. delegation to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, and she led part of the negotiations for the Sendai Framework on behalf of the U.S. government. Ms. Tokar currently represents USAID on the Interagency Working Group Science for Disaster Reduction that is the U.S. National DRR Platform and is the co-chair of Platform's International DRR Working Group. She is currently a member of the Partnership Council of the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Response and Recovery.



**John Harding, Head of Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Secretariat, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).** Prior to joining the WMO, Mr. Harding worked in the United Nations for 18 years, serving as Political Advisor to the UN Special Envoy to Haiti, President William Jefferson Clinton, Head of UNDP's Disaster Risk Reduction Unit in Haiti, and Advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. He was also a Team Leader for the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) at the World Bank in Washington DC. He holds a master's degree in Hydrology and Hydrogeology from

Birmingham University, UK, and a bachelor's degree in Geology and Oceanography from the University of Southampton, UK.



**Zoe Trohanis, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GFDRR.** Prior to her current role, Ms. Trohanis worked in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region of the World Bank Group as a Senior Urban Specialist. She has more than 15 years of experience at the Bank in disaster risk management and urban development programs, in both Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and the Pacific. Previously, she worked in the Hazard Management Unit at GFDRR. Prior to the Bank, she worked in both academia and in the private sector. Zoe has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's degree from American University's School of International Service.



**Frida Rodhe, Programme Specialist for Environment Climate Change and Biodiversity, Department of International Policy and Thematic Support, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).** In her current role Frida is responsible for a portfolio within the area of Climate Adaptation and DRR. Frida joined Sida in 2014 focusing on Global environment and economic development. She re-joined the global work 2021 after four years at the Swedish Embassy in La Paz Bolivia where she held the position as first secretary and specialist on natural resources and environment. Frida has a double MSc in Tropical Agronomy and Agricultural Development from Institutes de

Regions Chaudes, Montpellier, France and the University of Copenhagen and a BSc in Environmental Science from the Gothenburg, Sweden.



**Joaquín Toro, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist.** Mr. Toro is currently the regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank. He joined the Bank in 2003 in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region and helped setting up the LAC and Europe and Central Asia DRM Teams. He is one of the founders of Understanding Risk Community and Forums. He has nearly 25 years of disaster risk management experience and holds a master's degree in engineering management and systems engineering from George Washington University.

## Tuesday, May 23



**Bernice Van Bronkhorst, Global Director, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Practice Group, Climate Change.** A Dutch national, she joined the Bank in 2005 as an Urban Specialist in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. She has since held various positions, including as Sector/Practice Manager from 2012-2016 for the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change unit in the South Asia Region and, most recently, as Practice Manager for Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management for East and Southern Africa in the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience GP. At present Global Director, Climate Change, she oversees the key strategic priorities and implementation of the

Climate Change Action Plan, working closely with Climate Change Management team and staff, other Global Practices, and internal and external clients.



**Humberto López, World Bank Country Director, Türkiye.** As the World Bank Country Director for Türkiye, Mr. López leads a team of more than 60 professionals lead the Bank's dialogue and strategy in the third biggest IBRD client. Previously, he was Director of Strategy and Operations for Eastern and Southern Africa, Director of Strategy and Operations for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Acting Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean Region. As the Country Director for Central America he was responsible for the implementation of the Bank portfolio and a broad operational program that includes technical assistance, financing instruments and knowledge products. He has published extensively in diverse areas such as fiscal and exchange rate policy, growth, free trade agreements, migration and remittances, and the role of the investment climate for growth. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. López was a professor of Economics in the University of Salamanca (Spain) as well as visiting professor in Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge (USA). He holds a PhD in Economics from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.



**Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan.** Prior to this position, he was the Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI) Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa region, following his time as the Director for the Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation (FCI) Global Practice, where he was responsible for the MENA regional team of the FCI practice as well as its global teams in charge of the Firms, Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the Markets & Technology agendas.



**Alanna Simpson, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank.** Dr. Simpson is the regional coordinator for disaster risk management in Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank. In this role, she works with partners to identify and implement actions that reduce disaster risk and improve preparedness, actions built on robust scientific and engineering analysis. Prior to this role, she led the Innovation Lab within the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), where she supported teams to identify and harness innovation, science and engineering to overcome entrenched issues in disaster risk management. This included the development, communication and use of disaster risk assessments; open-source tool development (e.g., Think Hazard!); the Open Data for Resilience Initiative (OpenDRI); promotion of new innovation through the Challenge Fund; and international knowledge exchange through publications and the Understanding Risk Forum. Dr. Simpson previously worked for the Australian Government, where she led efforts to improve risk assessment capability in East Asia and the Pacific. A New Zealand and Australian national, she holds a PhD in Geoscience from the University of Queensland, a M.Sc. from the University of Otago and a B.Sc. from the University of Auckland.



**Elif Ayhan, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank.** Ms. Ayhan is a civil engineer who holds a master's degree in structural and earthquake engineering. She was a member of the Prime Ministry Crises Management Center following devastating 1999 earthquakes and contributed to establishing a new disaster risk management system in Turkey. She worked as a Deputy Director at the Prime Ministry Project Implementation Unit, implementing disaster recovery, reconstruction, and risk reduction projects with national and international resources. At the Bank, she has led various urban development, municipal services, land, and disaster risk management projects in ECA and SAR. She has been the task team leader for several flagship engagements, including Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Project (ISMEP); Serbia and Romania DRM reform programs, and State Partnership for the Resilient Kerala Program in India. Her current work program in SAR covers urban resilience, disaster risk reduction, risk financing, policy reforms to enhance disaster, and climate resilience in India, Pakistan, and at a regional level.



**Christiane Amari, Deputy Head of Division Peace and Security; Disaster Risk Management, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).**

Christiane Amari is a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Warning, Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Management at BMZ. From 2018-2020 she served as Director of the Risk Management Office for German Cooperation in Afghanistan. She has longstanding experience of working on fragile and conflict-affected states with special focus on the Middle East and Afghanistan, including positions in the German Ministry of Defense and

in German Parliament. In BMZ, she was previously responsible for managing relations with Regional Development Banks and IFAD.



**Renaud Seligmann, Director for Strategy and Operations, Sustainable Development Practice Group, World Bank.**

A French national, Mr. Seligmann joined the Bank in 2007 as a Senior Financial Management Specialist in the Africa Region. He held various positions, including Public Financial Management Sector Leader and Practice Manager in the Governance Global Practice, both in the Africa Region. He served as the World Bank's Country Director for the Russian Federation from 2019 to 2022. Prior to this, Mr. Seligmann was Practice Manager in the Governance Global Practice in the Middle East

and North Africa Region. He has also overseen the Digital Governance Community of Practice. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. Seligmann worked at the United Nations Board of Auditors and at the French Court of Accounts. Mr. Seligmann graduated from The Queen's College, Oxford, and undertook post-graduate studies at Sorbonne University (Paris), the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po Paris) and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (Paris and Strasbourg).



**Salih Buğra Erdurmuş, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank.**

Mr. Erdurmuş is a Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist with the World Bank based in Türkiye. He has been affiliated with the Bank since 2010, previously serving as Senior Procurement Specialist and Procurement Specialist. Prior to that, he was coordinator of reconstruction and retrofitting activities for IPKB. He has a Master of Science in Construction Management from Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi (Middle East Technical University).



**Carina Fonseca Ferreira, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank.**

Currently focused on disaster risk management in the South Asia region, Ms. Ferreira first joined the World Bank in 2015. Between 2017 and 2022, she served as Disaster Risk Management Specialist, with a focus on the Europe and Central Asia region. She has a Doctor of Philosophy in Earthquake Engineering from University College London and a Master of Philosophy in Civil Engineering from the University of Aveiro.



**Ana Campos Garcia, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank.**

She currently serves as the Regional Coordinator for disaster risk management in Africa at the World Bank, based in Washington, D.C. In this role, she plays a strategic role in leading and supporting teams working across resilience and disaster risk management in relation to territorial development, urban and coastal resilience, institutional and policy strengthening, ex-ante disaster risk financing, modernization of hydromet systems, and emergency response and recovery. She has led and co-led a series of climate adaptation

and disaster risk management projects in Seychelles, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya and The Gambia. Before joining the World Bank Africa Region, she led several projects on DRM in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the expansion of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) to Central America.



**Muchi Juma Ameir, Director of the Development Control Unit & Director of Planning / Commission of Land, Zanzibar.** Mr. Ameir is Director of Urban and Rural Planning in the Ministry of Lands and Housing Development in Zanzibar Under the World Bank's Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar – Integrated Development Project (BIG-Z), he leads the development of the National Building Code for Zanzibar through collaboration with various stakeholders and technical experts from both the public and private sectors. Overall, Mr. Ameir has been implementing various projects to develop or upgrade urban

and rural infrastructure, provide public services, and develop community spaces to improve quality of life for communities and build social capital and improving of local economy. Throughout these projects, Mr. Ameir has closely engaged community members and ensured communities understand the benefits and risks of projects and take their own decisions through participatory planning approach and integrating solid communication and consultation activities.



**Tafa Mi-Soleil** is a singer-songwriter born in Fort Jacques, Haiti. Tafa is a committed feminist and advocate for minority communities through her music, aiming to create a positive impact in the world. As a singer-songwriter, she evokes a wide range of emotions through her music, such as love, melancholy, joy, or societal challenges. She is also passionate about theater and painting, and is excited to launch her own fashion house to explore her love for high culture. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her art with the world and hope to inspire positive change through her music.



**Takahiro Tsuda, World Bank Group Alternate Executive Director representing Japan** since July 27, 2020. Prior to the World Bank, he headed the Office of Planning and Coordination for International Affairs at the Japanese Ministry of Finance, responsible for developing the strategic direction of the International Bureau. During the Japanese G20 Presidency in 2019, he contributed to conceptualizing G20 agenda items as the Director for Development Policy Coordination, including quality infrastructure investment, debt sustainability and transparency, global health, and disaster risk finance, as well as drafting

the G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC financing in Developing Countries, one of the key outcomes of the Osaka Summit. His leadership includes the First Deputy Budget Examiner for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (July 2017 - July 2018), Deputy Head of Fiscal Research Division (June 2016 – July 2017), and leading a unit for the global economic outlook, IMF, and G7/G20 issue (2016). Previously he also worked as a financial sector expert in the Monetary and Capital Markets Department at the IMF. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from Tokyo University, LL.M. from the University of Cambridge, MA in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University, and MSc in Finance from London Business School.