Mr. Dan Shepard, UN Information Officer for the United Nations Department of Global Communications: Climate Change Focal Point. Mr. Shepard continues to support the UN system’s efforts on climate change, which he has been engaged on since the Bali Conference in 2007, through the 2014 Climate Summit, the Paris Climate Conference and the ratification of the Paris Agreement. He is presently working to raise global ambition and action on climate change through the promotion of the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit. In addition to climate change, he works on a range of sustainability issues including biodiversity loss, food security, livable cities and water—all issues that involve economics, quality of life, and the environment. He has also served as editor of the United Nations Development Programme magazine, CHOICES, and also, for UNDP, worked on advocacy issues that included small arms and the rebuilding effort that followed the 2004 tsunami.

Professor Jan W. Dash is the NGOCSD-NY Lead Adviser on Climate Change and Managing Editor of the Climate Portal website. Prof. Dash is the Editor of the Climate Statement: Summary and Recommendations to Governments of the NG Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, delivered to leaders at the Copenhagen climate conference and updated yearly. He is a Matchmaker for the Climate Science Rapid Response Team providing scientific responses to media questions. He is the author of the “one-liner” responses to climate contrarian fallacies. He has worked for years in risk management and wrote a book about it. The 2nd edition will contain a chapter on Climate Risk Management. Prof. Dash is an Adjunct Professor at the Courant Institute NYU and is a research scholar at Fordham University. He has a PhD in physics, was Director of Research at the Centre de Physique Theorizé in Marseille France, and has published over 50 scientific papers.

Professor Juan Elias Chebly, Lead Adviser on Partnerships and Outreach to the UN Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Environment Programme & Head of the UN Environment Management Group; Founder of Voipebox.com and GiveMe5.org. Prof. Chebly holds a BS in Management, a minor in International Business, a Finance MBA degree from St. John’s University in Queens, NY and a Ph.D in Sustainable Development from Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela. At age 24, he became St. John’s Tobin College of Business youngest professor in 2010. In 2009, in founded Voipebox.com, a telecom startup introducing innovative and pioneering VOIP telephony solutions in South America and the US. Since 2013, he has been tasked to serve in different capacities as a report writer, researcher, programme manager, public speaker, strategic adviser, and community builder at the UN, at the juncture between academic research, policy-making, and inclusive governance through partnerships and global outreach.

Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D is President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique and a Mentor/Leader at Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project. Dr. Bass is a Transformational Strategist Coach, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist with over 28 years of experience in the business industry. She has been a community organizer, for grassroots movements, an author, a keynote speaker, a business entrepreneur for business start-ups and a business strategist for non-profits. Her passion is helping men and women become leaders in their communities. Over the past 11 years, she has trained and mentored thousands of corporate professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and varied industries across the globe. Every day, she looks forward to helping her clients transform their lives, so they can create wealth and have a long-lasting sustainable legacy. In 2011, she was honored as a social ambassador for her humanitarian work and her positive fight on social justice in Haiti. She has a Bachelor in criminal justice, MBA in Organizational Psychology and Ph.D. in public policy and administration. Working with Al Gore she is a Mentor/Leader at Climate Reality Project and Vice President of ASPAFrique a non-profit. As President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation she is continuously working to support education, poverty alleviation, human rights, climate action, and sustainable development. Dr. Bass’ goal is to educate women to become leaders in being of serve to their communities.

Dr. Eugénie L. Birch FAICP, RTPI (hon), Co-Director of Penn Institute for Urban Research and President of the General Assembly of Partners. Dr. Birch holds the Nussdorf Chair for Urban Research, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania where she chairs the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning. Founding co-director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, she is also co-editor of Penn Press’s The City in the 21st Century series and co-editor of the SSRN Urban ejournal. Dr. Birch’s most recent publications include Slums: How the Informal Real Estate Markets Work (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) and “A Midterm Report: Will Habitat III Make a Difference to the World’s Urban Development?” Journal of the American Planning Association (82:4 2016 398-411) In New York City, Dr. Birch has served as a member of the New York City Planning Commission, and on the jury to select the designers for the World Trade Center site. She has also served as a member of the US delegation to Habitat III. Dr. Birch, who lives in New York City, holds a PhD and Master degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University.
Ms. Luciana Godinho is a New York based Urban Designer and Architect, Coordinator of the Urban Design Climate Workshop. Luciana received her Master’s in Urban and Regional Design from the New York Institute of Technology. In 2018, Luciana was coordinator of the Urban Design Climate Workshop in NYC focused on Sunnyside Yard – Queens. It comprised global and NYC-based climate science and design experts and institutions, who were brought into the same room to discuss how to make climate science actionable: the challenges and opportunities of bridges between climate research and applied design. In the same year, she was part of the team who brought a similar program to Naples, Italy. Currently, she is involved on two more workshops happening this semester based on that model: One in Durban - South Africa, and another one in Gowanus, Brooklyn - NYC. Luciana is also an active Member on the American Institute of Architects-NY Planning & Urban Design Committee. She attends the regular meetings, volunteers on the organization and promotion of events and contributes to the committee outreach. Luciana’s urban design projects are always careful about incorporating climate-driven strategies into dense, busy urban areas. Her international background contributes to her ability to engage and explore the advantages of ethnic diversity, connecting and bridging different publics. She received her Bachelor of Architecture and Urbanism from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. During her Bachelor's, in 2014, she studied abroad at the University of Groningen - The Netherlands, where she completed the Urban Planning, Design and Society program.

Ms. Kehkashan Basu, Founder of Green Hope, Climate Advisor and Director of Youth Leadership for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. Kehkashan is an Award winning Environmentalist Global youth influencer, Motivational Speaker, Author and United Nations Human Rights Champion. She is the Winner of the 2016 International Children’s Peace Prize. As an 18 year old youth leader Kehkashan, has been impacting the global fraternity with her work on environmental conservation, promoting gender equality, mitigating climate change and social upliftment. A powerful voice of future generations, she has spoken at over 75 United Nations meetings and other global platforms across 20 countries. In 2013, at the age of 12, she was elected for a 2 year term as UNEP’s (United Nations Environment Programme) Global Coordinator for Children & Youth and a member of its Major Groups Facilitating Committee and she is the youngest person and the first minor, ever, to be elected into this position in the history of UNEP. She is also a United Nations Human Rights Champion and the winner of the 2019 “Innovator of the Year” award for her work on Education for Sustainable Development. She is the youngest member of Canada’s Women in Renewable Energy forum, the youngest recipient of Canada’s Top 25 Women of Influence Award for 2018 and has been recognized as one of Toronto’s most inspiring women changemakers. Kehkashan founded Green Hope on her return from Rio+20 in 2012 and in a short period of time has transformed it into a global youth movement spanning multiple countries. Green Hope has over 1,000 youth members making a difference through their innovative ground level campaigns that focus on empowering marginalized children with the aim of achieving the United Nations 2030 mandate to “leave no one behind.”

Mr. David Weaver is Policy Advisor at Global Policy Forum (GPF), a civil society organization engaged in international policy analysis and advocacy at the United Nations. His current policy priorities include global food security and hunger, and global peace and security, specifically respecting the Middle East. Prior to joining GPF, David Weaver has been involved in international ecumenical work in various roles for thirty years with the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and Church World Service. He has served as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director/CEO of CWS, CWS Interim Deputy Director for Programs and director of the CWS Mission Relationships and Witness Program. The MRW Program was responsible for fostering and sustaining a broad network of relationships with churches, ecumenical agencies and a variety of civil society partners around the world. David Weaver served for 15 years in the Middle East Office of National Council of Churches/Church World Service, involving basic social and economic development, peace and security, and inter-faith relations. He began his ecumenical career at NCCCUSA/CWS working in U.S.-Soviet church relations in the early 1980s.

Ms. Harriet Shugarm, Founder & Executive Director of ClimateMama, Climate Educator & Mentor for the Climate Reality Project – an organization working to educate and inspire families to understand climate change and empower them to take tangible steps to build a healthy world for their themselves and future generations. Previously, she has worked as a policy analyst and economist with the Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario governments in Canada, and later with the International Monetary Fund as the Special Assistant to the Director of the United Nations Office in New York. In 2007, Ms. Shugarm was selected to participate in a training program led by Former Vice President Al Gore and sponsored by The Climate Reality Project to educate the public about the climate crisis. She continues to serve as mentor and leader for the Climate Reality Project. She is the Chair of her town's Environmental Commission and Green Team, she teaches Climate Change Policy at a liberal arts college, and writes on climate change policy for a wide variety of publications including MSNBC, Health Child Health World, and Modern Parenthood. She serves on the board of the Mothers Project, the Barack Obama Green Charter High School, and Air-Soil-Water, as well as on the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network’s US Women’s Climate Justice Initiative Steering Committee. In 2011, she was one of 1,253 people arrested in Washington to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline. Harriet works to connect local grassroots groups and amplify the battles against pipelines and fossil fuel infrastructure and for renewable energy options.

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