

Transform
governance
to stay within
planetary
boundaries

Martin Chungong Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Martin Chungong made double history in 2014 by becoming the first African and first non-European to be elected as IPU secretary general. He was recently elected to a third term. He has more than four decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international levels. He has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy worldwide. After 14 years working in the Cameroonian Parliament, Mr. Chungong spent more than 20 years within the IPU before being elected its secretary general—the eighth person to hold the position. He had previously served as deputy secretary general and director of programs.

He has also built an impressive portfolio in the promotion of dialogue and conflict resolution, issues that remain at the heart of the IPU's global work. His focus on helping countries emerge from conflict or in transition has been widely acknowledged by the IPU membership and partners globally. Since 2012, Martin Chungong has made a push to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development and accountability. He has also been instrumental in strengthening the gender equality agenda within the IPU, and he is leading IPU's work to dramatically reduce maternal and child mortality rates through effective legislation and its implementation.



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés Co-chair, Committee for the U.N. We Want

María Fernanda Espinosa is an Ecuadorian academic, diplomat, politician, poet and linguist with graduate studies in Amazonian Studies and Environmental Geography. Her professional experience spans over 30 years in academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and high-level government positions. She served as president of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2018-2019), becoming the 4th woman in history and the first from Latin America and the Caribbean to preside over this body since its founding in 1945.

In Ecuador, she served twice as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007-2008 and 2017-2018), Minister of Defense (2012-2014) and Minister of Culture (2009-2012). Furthermore, Espinosa was the first female ambassador and permanent representative of Ecuador to the U.N. in New York and Geneva.

Currently, Espinosa performs several advisory and advocacy roles in gender equality, sustainable development, health diplomacy, indigenous affairs, global and local governance, and multilateralism. Her multiple duties include: Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy; member of Global Women Leaders; co-chair of the Coalition for the U.N. We Need; political advisor of the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Movement, and UBUNTU Advisor for United Cities and Local Governments. Additionally, she acts as a goodwill ambassador for the Latin American and Caribbean Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples FILAC and the Common Home of Humanity.



Maja Groff International lawyer, The Hague

Maja Groff is an international lawyer based in The Hague, who has assisted in the development and servicing of multilateral treaties, also working at various international criminal tribunals and teaching regularly at the Hague Academy of International Law. She has worked on global treaties, addressing, inter alia, areas of child law, issues disproportionately affecting women, persons with disabilities, and a range of other topics, as well as on the pioneering International Hague Network of Judges. She has regularly conducted liaison work with international organizations (including various U.N. bodies), international professional associations, and NGOs. Maja has drafted international legal policy documents for inter-governmental processes and published academically on private and public international law, human rights and global governance (e.g., Cambridge University Press, Edward Elgar, Hart, Intersentia). She holds degrees from McGill (civil law and common law), Oxford and Harvard Universities, and is an attorney admitted to practice in the state of New York. She has served on the International Law and U.N. Committees of the New York City Bar Association, and the (Advisory) Boards of BCorp Europe and ebbf, organizations devoted to ethical business. She was a winner of the 2018 New Shape Prize for global governance innovation.



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Naoko Ishii Director, Center for Global Commons at University of Tokyo

Dr. Naoko Ishii is a professor and executive vice president at the University of Tokyo, where she is also the inaugural director for the Center for Global Commons, whose mission is to catalyze systems change so that humans can achieve sustainable development within planetary boundaries. She believes academia can and should play an active role in mobilizing movements towards shared goals of nurturing stewardship of the global commons. Before joining the university, Dr. Ishii was CEO and chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from 2012-2020.

Before joining the GEF, Dr. Ishii was the deputy vice minister of finance of Japan and represented the Japanese Government during the design of the Green Climate Fund. Her career at the Ministry of Finance began in 1981 with a focus on the international sphere, particularly development issues.

Ishii is a member of the World Economic Forum's System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security, a special advisor to the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, member of the Leadership Council of the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network and of the Advisory Committee of Future Earth. She also serves on the Global Advisory Board of the University of Tokyo. Ishii has published numerous papers and several books. She is the inaugural recipient of the 2006 Enjoji Jiro Memorial Prize. She holds a BA and a PhD from the University of Tokyo.



Augusto Lopez-Claros Executive director, Global Governance Forum

Augusto Lopez-Claros is currently the chair of the Global Governance Forum, an organization committed to fostering strengthened international cooperation in the search for solutions to global problems. He is an economist with more than 30 years of experience in international organizations. He has worked in a number of senior roles at the World Bank, where he was director of the Global Indicators Group, at the World Economic Forum, where he was chief economist, and the International Monetary Fund, which he represented in Moscow during the 1990s. He has published extensively on a range of economic development topics and issues of international cooperation and has also lectured at some of the world's leading universities, think tanks and international organizations. His latest books are "Equality for Women = Prosperity for All" (2018, St. Martin's Press) and "Global Governance and the Emergence of Global Institutions for the 21st Century" (2020, Cambridge University Press).



Amanda Ellis [moderator] Senior director, Global Partnerships and Networks at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

Former U.N. Ambassador Amanda Ellis currently serves as senior director for Global Partnerships and Networks for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University. She is co-chair of the WE Empower UN SDG Challenge, launched by the U.N. Secretary General, the President of the World Bank and the Council of Women World Leaders in 2018 to promote inclusive entrepreneurship. Previous roles include New Zealand's head of mission and ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, inaugural ambassador for Women and Girls and Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Francophone Africa.

A founding member of the Global Banking Alliance for Women, Ms. Ellis is the recipient of the TIAW Lifetime Achievement Award for services to women's economic empowerment, the East-West Center Distinguished Alumni Award and NZ Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Ellis serves on the advisory boards of the Global Governance Forum, U.N. Target Gender Equality, Blue Planet Alliance, Hawai'i Green Growth, Bishop Museum, Institute for Climate and Peace, the East-West Center Board Of Governors and the Council on Foreign Relations Advisory Committee on economic inclusion. She is an adjunct senior fellow at the East-West Center in Hawai'i and a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. Ms. Ellis holds a BA First Class Honors degree in French and Economics from the University of Otago, New Zealand, an MA degree from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and an LTCL from Trinity College of London.

