

AGAINST TIME AND THE ODDS:

ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION TODAY TO
BETTER SERVE POPULATIONS TOMORROW



Climate Action
Accelerator



Owen Gaffney

Owen Gaffney is a writer, analyst, optimist and chief impact officer at the Nobel Prize. He is the author of *Earth For All: A Survival Guide For Humanity* (2022) and *Breaking Boundaries* (2021). He co-leads the Earth4 All initiative, he is co-founder of the Exponential Roadmap Initiative. For 20 years he has worked in Earth system science focusing on research, media and policy. He lives on the Stockholm archipelago with his wife Sophie, two children and a dog, Mist.

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Matthieu Auzanneau

Matthieu Auzanneau heads since 2016 the Shift Project, French reference energy transition think tank. Previously, Matthieu was a journalist, focusing on issues at the crossroads of economics and ecology (Le Monde, Arte, France 2, etc.). In 2002, he directed the first French documentary to show concrete consequences of global warming, for Envoyé Spécial in Alaska. He was behind the first investigative TV program on the environment, "Global Mag", broadcast on Arte from 2008.

Matthieu is a guest blogger for Le Monde, with the blog "Oil Man, chroniques du début de la fin du pétrole". He is notably the author of Oil, Power, and War (2015, La Découverte, 2018, Chelsea Green Publishing), judged "prodigious" by Nature magazine, listed on Geographical magazine's best books list 2019, and awarded the French association of energy economists' special prize in 2016.

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Simon Zadek

Simon Zadek is the Co-CEO of NatureFinance and Senior Advisor to the Task Force on Nature Related Financial Disclosure. He was Head of the UN Secretary General's Task Force on Digital Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals, Senior Advisor on Finance and Co-Director of UNEP's Finance Inquiry. He co-Chaired China's Green Finance Task Force and led the Green Finance Study Group secretariat under the Chinese, German and Argentinian G20 Presidencies. Previously, Simon has served as Senior Advisor to the World Economic Forum and the Global Green Growth Institute. He was founder and CEO of AccountAbility and Development Director of the New Economics Foundation. He has been a lecturer and professor at various management and business schools around the world, written and published extensively, including the award-winning book, *The Civil Corporation*.

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Dr. Jemilah Mahmood

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood is a medical professional with more than two decades of experience managing crises in health, disasters and conflict settings. She is now Professor and Executive Director of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health at Sunway University in Malaysia, and formerly the Special Advisor on Public Health to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. She is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, and also holds several sustainability-oriented advisory and board roles including at the World Economic Forum.

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Elise Buckle

Elise Buckle is a globally recognized climate leader and expert who has been working in the field of climate and sustainability for 24 years. She is President and CEO of Climate Bridges, Founder of the SHE Builds Bridges for Climate Action network and initially Co-Founder of SHE Changes Climate. She has been nominated as International Gender Champion (IGC) and is now the Co-Chair of the IGC Climate and Gender Impact Group. Elise has a strong track record of working as a partnership facilitator and catalyst for change, building bridges and successful global alliances to unlock the power of collective action and deliver positive impacts for climate, people and nature; some of her work included the launch and coordination of the Planetary Emergency Partnership, the Nature-Based Solutions Coalition hosted by the UN, the Leaders Pledge for Nature and the G7/G20 Summit alliances for sustainable finance. She is also a leadership mentor and teaches sustainability and entrepreneurship at the Glion Institute of Excellence in Hospitality.

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Runa Khan

Runa Khan is the Founder of Friendship, an International Social Purpose Organization established in 2002. Friendship helps transform lives by working together with vulnerable people in the remotest communities in Bangladesh. It brings direct services to over 7.5 million lives a year. Its strategy focusses on four vital challenges: Saving Lives, Poverty Alleviation, Climate Adaptation and Empowerment. Over the years, Friendship has developed integrate inclusive development model in the north of Bangladesh, on the costal belt as well as in the Rohingya camps with health, water and sanitation, and educational services.

Runa is also the Founder and co-chair of Friendship International. She is an advocate of climate change and human rights, women empowerment, leadership, and importance of nurturing human values and gives talks at international conferences and Universities. She is also a board member of Global Dignity, on the Advisory Council of British Asian Trust, Strategic Advisor of BIC Corporate Foundation, Honorary President of the One Sustainable Health Forum Approach, and an Honorary Trustee of Duke of Edinburgh Award Bangladesh.

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Xavier Castellanos

Mr. Xavier Castellanos, Under Secretary General for National Society Development and Operations Coordination of the IFRC, has four decades of experience in National Society development, resilience building and emergency humanitarian operations at the national, regional and global levels. He has served the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in various capacities since 1981, when he started as a volunteer.

Xavier is from Ecuador and has three children. He has a Bachelor's degree in Communication and holds several professional diplomas in humanitarian affairs and corporate social responsibility.

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Cheikh Mbow

Professor **Cheikh Mbow** is the Director of the Ecological Monitoring Centre in Senegal. Formerly Director of Future Africa at the University of Pretoria, Cheikh Mbow was Executive Director of START-International in Washington DC and Senior Researcher on Climate Change at the World Agroforestry Centre in Kenya. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. He has led several international research programmes, including Chapter 5 of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL), and was one of the Lead Authors for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) of the IPCC-AR5. Mbow is currently Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, and Lead Author for the IPCC AR6 on AFOLU. He has served on numerous scientific committees, such as the Global Earth Programme (2005–2011), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme-IGBP from 2012 to 2014, Future Earth (2013–2015).

Professor Mbow has worked on the drivers of terrestrial resource dynamics in various human-ecological contexts. He has focused on climate impacts and land-related mitigation pathways, food security, land resource opportunities in semi-arid ecosystems. He is currently working on developing transdisciplinary approaches to Africa's development challenges by establishing frameworks for a thriving sustainability science to support the necessary transformation on the continent.

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Jérôme Oberreit

Jérôme Oberreit is Executive Director at BRAC, an international development organisation founded in Bangladesh in 1972 that partners globally with over 100 million people living with inequality and poverty to create sustainable opportunities to realise their potential. As Executive Director, he plays a critical role in advancing BRAC's global strategy, resource mobilisation and organisational development.

From 2012 to 2018, Jerome was the Secretary General of Médecins Sans Frontières International having been the Director of programmes from 2006 to 2012. He was instrumental in coordinating complex organisational systems in a multi-centric organisation focused on providing health services to the most neglected in resource-limited environments. In this role he led global positioning efforts and defined strategies and systems for securing resources (financial, human, and technical), ensuring both internal and external accountability. He also has country-level experience with MSF in several African countries and in the Middle East.

From 2019 to 2021, Jerome took part in the development of the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), a new initiative launched by the World Health Organisation and Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative, where he held the position of Senior Advisor to the Executive Director.

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MODERATOR

Benoît Miribel

Benoît Miribel is the Secretary General of the One Sustainable Health for All Foundation launched during the COVID 2020 lockdown and which coordinates the OSH Forum and the One Europe for Global Health coalition (OEGH).

He is a member of the French Economy, Social and Environmental Council (CESE), and has chaired the French Foundations Center (CFF) (2015–2022). Before, he has joined Institut Merieux from April 2019 to June 2020, as Director for Global Health. He has been, from January 2007 to March 2019, the Director General of the Fondation Mérieux, an organization dedicated to the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries. He has been the Honorary Chairman of Action against Hunger (ACF) since June 2013, an NGO that he chaired from 2010 to 2013 and managed as director general from 2003 to 2006. He was a board member of the European Foundation Center (EFC) from 2013 to 2016 and a board member of VOICE, the European Network of Humanitarian NGOs (2003/2006).

He is the co-founder of the bilingual journal "Humanitarian Alternatives" and the chairman of Earthwake an NGO dedicate to recycling plastic bags. He is a member of the Friendship board (Bangladesh). Member of the think-tank "Santé Mondiale 2030" and the think-tank "Re-Sources". He was a member of the High Council for International Cooperation (HCCI), a member of the Commission's White Paper of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008), and of the National Commission on Human Rights (1998–2001 and 2011–2013).

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Philippe Duneton

A French national, **Philippe Duneton** has more than 25 years' experience in the fields of HIV/AIDS, infectious and tropical diseases and public health. Philippe has been at Unitaïd since its creation in 2006. As Executive Director a.i, he has led Unitaïd's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, playing a vital role as the co-lead of the therapeutics arm of the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator. Previously, he was a practicing doctor at Hospital "La Pitié Salpêtrière" in Paris (Infections Diseases Department) and was twice advisor to the French Ministry of Health under Minister Bernard Kouchner. He was the head of the Mission against HIV/AIDS and harm reduction for l'Assistance publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) and led the French regulatory agency for medicines and health products. He also chaired the Board of the European Medicines Agency. Philippe holds a Master's degree in Public Health and is a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.).

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Miren Bengoa

Originally from Geneva, **Miren Bengoa** has a degree in international relations from Sciences Po in Paris, a certificate in economic development from EPFL and a Master's degree in public health from the University of London. She has worked with MSF-CH and Terre Des Hommes, and spent eight years as Programme Manager for maternal health at UNFPA and Programme Specialist for monitoring and evaluation at UNICEF's Child Survival Unit. She has undertaken numerous assignments in Africa and Latin America on community health, child protection and HIV prevention projects for young people. Miren led the Fondation CHANEL for nearly ten years in the fight against gender inequality. In 2013 she founded and chaired the UN association ONU Femmes France of which she is now Honorary Chair. In 2021 she joined Groupe SOS, the European leader in social economy, as Managing Director for International Action. Miren is currently Director of Swiss Solidarity, the independent Swiss foundation for humanitarian aid donations established by a Swiss public radio station in 1946.

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Nicole Butts

Nicole Butts is the Chief of the Acquisition and Assistance Division in USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. With over 20 years of experience in U.S. federal procurement, including six years in humanitarian assistance for US Africa Command, US Europe Command, and now USAID, she is dedicated to advancing innovative procurement processes. Nicole is committed to integrating climate-conscious policies into humanitarian operations, ensuring a sustainable approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the sector.

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Pierre Salignon

Trained as a lawyer and specialist in emergency response in humanitarian contexts, **Pierre Salignon** joined the French Crisis and Support Center (CDCS) of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs in 2021, as Head of the Center for Humanitarian and Stabilization Operations (COHS). He previously worked for the French Development Agency from 2013 to 2021 as head of partnerships with civil society organizations and senior project manager in global health. Executive Director of the NGO Médecins du Monde between 2009 and 2013, he also worked with the emergency unit of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva between 2009 and 2013. Finally, he was involved with the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières for 17 years, serving as its Executive Director from 2004 to 2008.

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Anne de Riedmatten

Mme de Riedmatten a débuté sa carrière au siège de Médecin sans Frontières-Suisse. Après 4 années passées au sein de l'institution, elle a rejoint le Comité Internationale de la Croix-Rouge (CICR). Son parcours de délégué terrain l'a emmené au Myanmar, au Soudan, au Sri Lanka et en République Centrafricaine. De retour à Genève, Mme de Riedmatten a rejoint le Département Fédéral des Affaires Etrangères (DFAE) de la Suisse. Pendant ces 13 années passées au sein du DFAE, cette dernière s'est spécialisée sur les questions multilatérales et de diplomatie humanitaire. Mme de Riedmatten a rejoint le canton de Genève en août 2023 et a repris à cette occasion la Direction du Service de la Solidarité Internationale.

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Sonia Roschnik

Sonia Roschnik is the Executive Director of the Geneva Sustainability Centre for the International Hospital Federation. The Centre is set up to support hospitals and healthcare leadership to ensure their contribution towards a healthy and sustainable future for all.

Sonia comes with 30 years of experience in health and social care internationally as a clinician, in senior hospital management, and in sustainability. She is delighted to sit on the Board of the Climate Action Accelerator.

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Stephen Cornish

Stephen Cornish has been a dedicated member of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) for over 25 years. Throughout his extensive career, he has managed several major humanitarian interventions in conflict zones ranging from Chechnya to Sierra Leone. His expertise in negotiating humanitarian access to vulnerable populations and resolving aid-worker abduction crises has been instrumental in MSF's global operations.

Cornish's leadership extends beyond MSF. He served on the board of directors of MSF Canada, his home country, before becoming its Executive Director. He also held significant roles with the Canadian Red Cross as Manager of Programs for Countries in Armed Conflict, and with CARE Canada as a Policy and Advocacy Advisor. He served as the CEO of the David Suzuki Foundation, and now continues to champion humanitarian and environmental causes with MSF Switzerland as General Director since 2020.

He is a past director on the board of Youth Challenge International and was a member of the steering committee for Pathways to Peace, an international peace-building initiative in Afghanistan. He currently sits on the boards of MSF-Logistique, MSF Mexico, CANADEM, and is an honorary director of Canadian Physicians for the Environment.

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Shailee Pradhan

Shailee Pradhan is Senior Sustainability Manager at Swiss Re. She is an economist by background with more than 20 years of experience in international development and finance. She has served as a World Economic Forum Global Future Council Fellow on Net Zero. Shailee holds an MA in International Relations/ MSc in Food Policy and Nutrition from Tufts University, USA, and a PhD in Economics from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

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Serge Michel

Serge Michel, 55, grew up in Switzerland. He is one of the co-founders in 2019 of the Geneva-based media Heidi.news. Between 2011 and 2018, he worked for Le Monde in Paris, as deputy director and later editor-in-chief of Le Monde Afrique. In 2001, he was awarded the Albert Londres prize for his reporting in Iran, where he spent four years as a correspondent for Le Figaro and Le Temps. In 2005, he founded the Bondy Blog in the suburbs of Paris. Serge is the author of several books on Iran, China and Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Beatrice Ferrari

Beatrice Ferrari is the Director of International Affairs at Canton Geneva, overseeing support for the international Geneva ecosystem and fostering global cooperation projects. She holds a PhD in Urban Studies from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, specializing in Asian cities and globalization. Previously, she led the Bilateral Relations Office at the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, promoting science diplomacy. Beatrice Ferrari is the Director of International Affairs at Canton Geneva, overseeing support for the international Geneva ecosystem and fostering global cooperation projects. She holds a PhD in Urban Studies from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, specializing in Asian cities and globalization. Previously, she led the Bilateral Relations Office at the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, promoting science diplomacy.

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Bea Albermann

Bea Albermann is a medical doctor, planetary health activist and co-founder of Health for Future Switzerland. Bea studied human medicine at the Universities of Zurich and Lausanne and co-authored the national Planetary Health Strategy of the Swiss Medical Association. The former WHO youth delegate has been recognised internationally for her work on health and climate justice, including the Forbes 30 under 30 list, the Mercator Fellowship and two TEDx talks.