

**Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:
Making infrastructure investments work for women and girls**

**Side event of the Second Committee
73rd session of the General Assembly**

**16 October 2018, 3 pm – 6 pm
Conference Room 2, UN HQ NY**

Speakers' Bios



MS. NATALIE ELWELL is the Senior Gender Advisor at the World Resources Institute, working to ensure that WRI's programs, activities, and policies benefit women and men equally. She joined WRI from USAID where she served as the Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment, working to build capacity within the Agency to advance and leverage women's empowerment and gender equality to enhance the outcomes of environment and climate change programming. Prior to joining USAID, she was the Associate Vice President for Gender Equity at World Neighbors where she served as a technical advisor to field teams in 18 countries. She is a founding board member of Groundswell International, a partnership of local NGOs and resource people in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, working to strengthen rural communities to build healthy farming and food systems from the bottom up. Ms Elwell earned an MA in Sustainable Development from the SIT Graduate Institute in Vermont.



JIM HALL

Professor Jim Hall FREng is Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks in the University of Oxford. His research focuses upon management of climate-related risks in infrastructure systems, in particular relating to various dimensions of water security, including flooding and water scarcity. Jim Hall is a member of the [UK independent Committee on Climate Change Adaptation](#). Until 2015 Jim Hall was co-chair of the [Global Water Partnership / OECD Task Force on the Economics of Water Security](#)

[and Sustainable Growth](#). He advises the World Bank on water security and is editor of the AGU journal Water Resources Research. Jim leads the UK [Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium](#), which has developed the world's first national infrastructure simulation models for appraisal of national infrastructure investment and risks. His book "[The Future of National Infrastructure: A System of Systems Approach](#)" was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016.

MR. RICHARD KOZUL-WRIGHT is Director of the Globalisation and



Development Strategies Division in UNCTAD. He has worked at the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. He has published widely on economic issues including, inter alia, in the Economic Journal, the Cambridge Journal of Economics, The Journal of Development Studies, and the Oxford Review of Economic Policy. His latest book is the Resistible Rise of Market Fundamentalism (with Paul Rayment) and he has also edited volumes on Transnational Corporations and the Global Economy, Economic Insecurity and Development, Securing Peace, Climate Protection and Development, and Industrial Policy. He holds a Ph.D in economics from the University of Cambridge, UK.

MR. NICK O'REGAN began his career with the UN by supporting the UN



Verification Mission in Angola in 1994. He then moved to UN Mine Action as Chief of Administration. In 2004, he joined the UNOPS Mine Action Unit in New York as a Portfolio Manager, where he oversaw programmes in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Sudan. He was appointed UNOPS Country Representative in Kenya in 2006, and later became the

Director of UNOPS Office in Jerusalem in 2011. In 2015, he was appointed Head of the Project Management and Infrastructure Centre of Excellence, retaining his role as Director in Jerusalem. Mr. O'Regan was appointed director of UNOPS Infrastructure and Project Management Group in 2017.



MS. ÅSA REGNÉR serves as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, at UN Women since May 2018. Prior to her appointment, she served as Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden since 2014, where her focus was on concrete results in the implementation of Swedish gender equality policies as well as a shift towards prevention of violence against women and the involvement of men and boys in gender equality work. She previously served as UN Women

Country Director in Bolivia (2013-2014) and Secretary-General of the Swedish International Planned Parenthood Federation branch. She also served as Director of Planning, Ministry of Justice (2004-2006) and as Political Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office (1999-2004). She began her career as a volunteer for a Swedish NGO in La Paz, Bolivia (1990-1991) and moved to the Ministry of Labour working on gender and labour market issues for several years in the 1990s. Ms. Regnér holds a Master's degree in Democratic Development from Uppsala University.



MS. SONAL SHAH is an Independent Consultant on urban planning and sustainable transportation. Over the last 14+ years, her research has spanned across India, Asia and the United States. She most recently led urban planning, gender and transport programs at ITDP India. She is currently advising the Delhi Transport Department on creating gender responsive public transport. She is a member of the international SUM4ALL Gender Working Group, has reviewed GIZ's handbook on Gender and Sustainable Transport, and has co-authored the background paper on

“Promoting green growth in Asia: Role of urban design and planning to encourage environmentally sustainable transport” for the Eleventh Intergovernmental Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia. She led policy briefs and manuals on Women and Transport in Indian Cities co-authored by ITDP and Safetipin. She also contributed towards India's national street design guidelines called the Indian Roads Congress Guidelines. Sonal has led projects supported by the DFID, IKI, Oak Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Ms. Shah completed her B.Arch from Mumbai University and MSc Urban Planning from Columbia University.