8.2 Commissioner biographies

Amanda Katili Niode is a talented policy advisor and non-governmental organizational leader working as the director of The Climate Reality Project Indonesia, part of a global organization founded by former US vice-president Al Gore to mainstream the climate crisis and the actions that can be taken to address it. Amanda is certified as an executive coach and mentor on climate and sustainability, partnering with individuals, organizations and corporations to further environmental policy and action. Amanda previously served as Indonesia's Special Assistant to the Minister for Environment and the Head of the Expert Team of the President's Special Envoy for Climate Change. For her work in furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Development Programme invited Amanda to become an 'SDGs Mover' in Indonesia. In her other roles, Amanda is a weekly columnist on environmental issues; and is the co-founder and chairperson of Omar Niode Foundation, a non-profit organization delivering home-cooked meals for medical workers and volunteers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Amanda has a PhD from the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan and a B.Sc. from the School of Natural Science and Technology at the Institut Teknologi Bandung.

Andrew Leigh is a seasoned government policymaker serving as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Treasury and Charities, and Federal Member for Fenner in Australia. Andrew is skilled in economic policy, having worked as a professor of economics at the Australian National University prior to being elected to government in 2010. Andrew is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, and a past recipient of the 'Young Economist Award,' a prize given every two years by the Economics Society of Australia to the best economist under 40. Andrew is a podcast host and has written over a half-dozen books with his most recent titles including: *Randomistas: How Radical Researchers Changed Our World* (2018), *Innovation + Equality: How to Create a Future That Is More Star Trek Than Terminator* (with Joshua Gans) (2019), and *Reconnected: A Community Builder's Handbook* (with Nick Terrell) (2020). Andrew holds a PhD in public policy from Harvard and graduated from the University of Sydney with first class honours in arts and law.

Antaryami Dash is an experienced non-governmental organizational leader leading the health and nutrition thematic portfolio at Save the Children, India and co-chairing Save the Children's Nutrition Technical Working Group. Previously, Antaryami has worked with UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) and government health systems bringing his skills and expertise to bear on issues related to community management of acute malnutrition, nutrition in emergency settings, nutrition surveillance, health-system strengthening, data analytics, and research. His economic and nutrition public-policy research has covered such areas as: assessment of cost of diet in India and finding solutions to minimize the affordability gap of a nutritious diet; assessing household level co-coverage of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions; reducing child malnutrition by improving home-augmented household diets using a positive deviance approach; and assessing campaign effectiveness and coverage of vitamin A and de-worming. Antaryami has mentored participants in the Save the Children's course on 'Nourishing the youngest and resourcing the families for better nutrition.' He holds a bachelor's degree in homoeopathic medicine and surgery, a master's in public health, specializing in health administration, and is currently pursuing his PhD in public health from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Asma Al Mannaei is a skilled public servant guiding efforts to reshape and improve the healthcare sector in the emirate of Abu Dhabi as the executive director of research and innovation in the government's department of health. Asma currently chairs several committees in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), such as the Abu Dhabi Health Research and Technology Committee, and serves as a board member of the National Rehabilitation Center. Previously, Asma worked as the department's director of strategy and healthcare quality, leading its transformation in patient care quality and safety. Asma introduced the award-winning 'Muashir' framework — an innovative, comprehensive quality monitoring and improvement program (the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa) that provides ratings for healthcare providers' performance based on the best international quality practices. Asma holds a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University, a clinical research diploma from the Vienna School of Clinical Research, and a bachelor's degree in medicine from UAE University. She also received executive education in advanced leadership and management at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Daniel Iberê Alves da Silva is an Indigenous member of the M'byá Guarani people in Brazil and a citizen leader committed to sharing Indigenous ways of knowing. Iberê is a councillor on the Municipal Council of Cultural Policies of Rio Branco, Acre, and member of the Thematic Committee of Traditional Communities/Indigenous Cultures. He was a founding councillor of the Indigenous Council of Brazil's Federal District (2017). His research explores political sociology, governance and social thought, particularly as it relates to the Amazon and impacts on Indigenous peoples. He has held a number of roles in the following organizations: Usina de Artes João Donato (Art Plant Joao Donato, once the site of a cashew processing plant, now an art school for music, performing arts and cinema); the Institute Dom Moacyr Grechi in the Roberval Cardoso Professional and Technology Education Centre; the Programa Nacional de Acesso ao Ensino Técnico e Emprego (PRONATEC, which aims to expand and democratize public secondary education) coordinated by the Instituto Federal do Acre; among others. He is a doctoral student in Social Anthropology at Universidade de Brasília. He holds a master's degree in social sciences from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte with a concentration in politics, development and society; and a bachelor's degree in social sciences, specializing in political science, from the Universidade Federal do Acre.

David Halpern is a trusted government policy advisor working as the chief executive of the Behavioural Insights Team in the UK. David has led the team since its inception in 2010, bringing behavioral insights and implementation science into governments in the UK and other countries. Prior to that, David was the first research director of the Institute for Government, and between 2001 and 2007 he was the chief analyst at the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. David was also appointed as the What Works National Advisor in July 2013. He supports the What Works Network and leads efforts to improve the use of evidence across government. Before entering government, David held tenure at Cambridge and posts at Oxford and Harvard. He has written several books and papers on areas relating to behavioural insights and well-being, including *Social Capital* (2005), *The Hidden Wealth of Nations* (2010), and *Online Harms and Manipulation* (2019), and he co-authored the MINDSPACE report. In 2015, David wrote a book about the Behavioural Insights Team entitled *Inside the Nudge Unit: How Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference*.

Donna-Mae Knights holds the position of policy coordinator for the Ministry of Community Development, Culture, and the Arts, through which she has been involved in directing the formulation of policies for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago over the last seven years, in areas including culture and sustainable community development. She is a career public servant with 27 years of service in areas of social policy, planning and research, as well as the design and implementation of community-based poverty-eradication strategies. Dr. Knights interrupted this period of service in 2005 and completed a master's degree in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University, followed by doctoral studies in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Her dissertation focused on collective efficacy and community-based crime prevention, looking at insights into the workings of informal community structures and their impact on the social life and informal regulation of communities.

Fitsum Assefa Adela is a government policymaker serving as the minister in charge of the Planning and Development Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Being at the helm of the country's key development planning and policymaking office, and a core member of the macroeconomic policy team in her capacity as the commissioner, Fitsum brings a whole-of-government approach to her leadership in economic policies, plans and programs, including the crafting and implementation of Ethiopia's home-grown economic reform and its 10-year development plan. Fitsum also serves as the government's representative liaising with the Independent Economic Advisory Council. Since 2018, she has also served as a board member of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Before entering politics, Fitsum was a professor for more than a decade at the University of Hawassa in Ethiopia, where she undertook several impactful interdisciplinary studies focusing on environment and development, technology adoption, and poverty analysis with a focus on institutional factors. Fitsum holds a PhD in philosophy and agricultural economics from the University of Giessen in Germany, and a master's degree in development studies and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

Gillian Leng is the Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), which offers guidance, advice and information services for health, public-health and social-care professionals in the UK. As a junior doctor, Gillian was struck by variations in clinical practice, and this developed into her passion for using evidence to improve care. Her career has spanned research, evidence synthesis, management and healthcare. Her aim has been to transform NICE with new methods and processes to put the organization at the forefront of evaluating new medicines, devices and diagnostics, and deliver dynamic, living guidelines. Gillian trained in medicine at Leeds, worked on clinical trials and epidemiological research in Edinburgh, and was a public-health consultant in London. She was an editor of the Cochrane Collaboration, and now chairs the Guidelines International Network.

Gonzalo Hernández Licona is a distinguished economist working as the director of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN-OPHI), where he coordinates 61 countries and 19 international institutions to advance and exchange ideas about implementing multidimensional poverty indicators. Based in Mexico, Gonzalo brings expertise in country-led evaluations to his work with UNICEF. He is senior research fellow at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), research associate in the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, and member of the Board of Trustees at El Colegio de México. He was the executive secretary of the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL) between 2005 and 2019, where he coordinated the evaluation of social policies and the measurement of poverty at the national, state and municipality levels. His previous roles have included general director of monitoring and evaluation at the Ministry of Social Development, and full-time professor at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), where he still works part-time. He was also part of the 15 independent group of scientists who wrote the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report for the UN. Gonzalo has a PhD in economics from Oxford University, a master's degree in Economics from the University of Essex, and a bachelor's BA from ITAM.

Hadiqa Bashir is a confident young feminist, visionary and citizen leader. She was born into a patriarchal society in Saidu Sharif, which is located in the Swat Valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan's Tribal Belt, and which motivated her to work against early and forced marriages in Pakistan's tribal regions. To that end, she founded Girls United for Human Rights to protect and promote girls' rights. In doing so, she has worked to sensitize her community to the negative effects that child marriages have on children's mental and physical health. Hadiqa is on the volunteer board of directors at Eve Alliance and has previously volunteered at A Society for Women's Rights and the Sister's Council (Khwendo Jirga, a women's advocacy group in Pakistan that supports gender equality). She has been recognized as a Women Deliver Young Leader, the winner of the With and For Girls Award (2018-19), a Commonwealth Youth Award Finalist (2017), a two-time Children's Peace Prize Nominee (2016 and 2017), a winner of the Asian Girls Rights Award (2016), a winner of the Muhammad Ali International Humanitarian Award (2015), a recipient of an honorary award from the Honorable Chairman Senate Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and an Asian Girls Ambassador.

Howard White is a research leader serving as the chief executive officer of the Campbell Collaboration, an international social-science research network that produces evidence syntheses relevant for decision-making. Howard has spent his career supporting the use of robust evaluation and previously served as the founding executive director of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), as well as led the impact-evaluation program of the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group. Howard has advised government agencies in many countries, across many sectors, around the world. He has received awards from the governments of Benin and Uganda for his services in the field of evaluation. As an academic, he leans towards work with policy relevance, and working in the policy field believes in academic rigour as the basis for policy and practice. Howard started his career as an academic researcher at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Jan Minx is an impact-oriented scholar working as a professor of climate change and public policy at the Priestley International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds. Based in Germany, he also heads up the Applied Sustainability Science working group of the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, a scientific think tank combining economic and social science analyses to guide public policy. Jan has contributed substantially to the recent work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a coordinating lead author of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, where he co-leads the chapter on emission trends and drivers in the Mitigation of Climate Change working group. He also played a major role during the fifth assessment cycle, where he coordinated the report process as head of the Technical Support Unit. Jan's research spans climate, environmental and sustainability policy. Methodologically, a primary focus of his work is evidence synthesis, exploring how artificial intelligence can help to scale evidence-synthesis methods to very large bodies of evidence and apply them in the context of global environmental assessments where modelling is the dominant methodological approach, and developing new evidence-synthesis methods to advance scientific policy advice and global environmental assessments. He holds a PhD in environmental economics and management from the University of York and completed his undergraduate degree in economics and political science at the University of Cologne.

Jinglin He is a non-governmental organizational leader working as the director of The Red Leaf Groups, adjunct professor of the Institute of Health Data Science of Lanzhou University, and consultant of the Tsinghua University's Research Centre on Aging Society. Previously, Jinglin has served as a full-time consultant of the United Nations Population Fund, the executive manager of the China Council of the Lions Club, and a senior program officer and regional coordinator at UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and the World Health Organization. Earlier in her career, Jinglin taught and undertook research in the School of Public Health of Peking University. She brings expertise in public health and social development (specifically in the fields of policy development, advocacy and cross-sectoral cooperation) and in empowerment (in areas such as communicable diseases, road safety, active aging, gender equality, disabled and rights, youth, and life skills). Jinglin received her bachelor's, master's and PhD in public health from Peking University.

Julia Belluz is a respected journalist working as Vox's senior health correspondent. Reporting on medicine, science, and global public health across platforms and media, Julia is an evidence intermediary skilled in health and social policy journalism. Before joining Vox, Julia was a Knight Science Journalism fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her writing has appeared in a range of international publications, including the BMJ, the Chicago Tribune, the Economist and Economist's Intelligent Life magazine, the Globe and Mail, the LA Times, Maclean's, the National Post, ProPublica, Slate, and the Times of London. In 2015, she contributed a chapter to the book *To Save Humanity: What Matters Most for a Healthy Future*. Julia has been honored by numerous journalism awards, including the 2016 Balles Prize in Critical Thinking, the 2017 American Society of Nutrition Journalism Award, and three Canadian National Magazine Awards (in 2007 and 2013). She was a 2019 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Communications Award finalist. Outside of reporting, she speaks regularly at universities and conferences the world over. She holds an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics.

Julian Elliott is one of the world's leading clinician researchers in the use of technology for evidence synthesis. He is chair of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium, based at Cochrane Australia within Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and until recently was the executive director of the Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce. Julian is a distinguished evidence producer, having developed the 'living evidence' model – high-quality systematic reviews and guidelines that are updated as soon as new evidence becomes available. This model dramatically improves the currency of high-quality evidence and is now being adopted worldwide, including by the World Health Organization and other major guideline groups. Julian is actively involved in the development of new technologies to improve knowledge translation. He co-founded and is chief executive officer of Covidence, a not-for-profit technology company that provides the most widely used software platform for evidence syntheses globally. In 2017, Julian was the recipient of the Australian Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research. He is an infectious-diseases physician at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, Australia and worked previously for the Cambodian Ministry of Health, and served as a consultant to the WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and the World Bank.

Kenichi Tsukahara is an engineering leader working as the director of the Disaster Risk Reduction Research Centre and professor in the civil engineering department at Kyushu University in Japan. He has held various senior-level positions in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport with the Japanese government. He brings over three decades of experience internationally, having served as a senior advisor with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, deputy director general of the Secretariat of Asia-Pacific Water Forum, strategy and policy officer in the Asian Development Bank, and first secretary for economic cooperation, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia. He is a member of the Science Council of Japan, leader of the water-related disaster group of the Disaster Risk Management Committee of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, and senior professional civil engineer with the Japan Society of Civil Engineers Regional Science Association International. Kenichi holds a PhD from the Department of Regional Science at the University of Pennsylvania and a civil engineering degree from Kyushu University.

Kerry Albright is an international public servant working as the deputy director ad interim and chief, Research Facilitation and Knowledge Management, at UNICEF's dedicated research centre, the Office of Research-Innocenti (UNICEF-Innocenti), based in Florence, Italy. In her evidence intermediary role, she oversees research quality assurance and ethical evidence-generation standard-setting for UNICEF's 190+ offices and 15,000 staff worldwide. She also has oversight of UNICEF-Innocenti activities in research governance, evidence synthesis and knowledge management, research capacity-building, research uptake and impact, and behavioural-sciences research and implementation research. Kerry's work focuses on strengthening an evidence and learning culture across UNICEF and working with external partners in support of a global community of practice around evidence for children. Prior to joining UNICEF in 2015, Kerry worked in various roles at the UK's Department for International Development, now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, where she was head of the Evidence to Action Unit and also co-founded the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition initiative.

Larry Hedges is an applied statistician working as the Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics at Northwestern University in Chicago in the US. He is chair of the Department of Statistics, with appointments as a faculty fellow at the Institute for Policy Research, the School of Education and Social Policy in the Department of Psychology, and the Weinberg School of Medicine. Larry is an elected member of the National Academy of Education, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Statistical Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association. He co-founded the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness and was honoured by the establishment of the annual Hedges Lecture in 2016. He is known for bringing evidence synthesis into educational policy and practice. Larry received the Yidan Prize for Education Research in 2018. Prior to Northwestern, he was the Stella M. Rowley Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. He received a PhD from Stanford University in 1980.

Maureen Smith is a citizen leader committed to evidence-based medicine and patient/citizen engagement in research. Her commitment stems from her lived experience with the health system subsequent to a rare disease diagnosis in childhood. Maureen is the chair of Cochrane's Consumer Network Executive and is involved in several global Cochrane projects and advisory committees. In Canada, she is the chair of Ontario's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) SUPPORT Unit's Patient Partner Working Group and sits on the board of directors. She is also a member of SPOR's Evidence Alliance. She has been a patient member on the Ontario Committee to Evaluate Drugs since 2014, and on the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee for the past four years. Most recently, Maureen became the citizen-partnership lead for the COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making (COVID-END), a global evidence network to support decision-making. She also brought the consumer perspective as a co-investigator on the e-COVID-19 living map of recommendations global initiative. Previously, Maureen served on the Executive of the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders and Rare Disease International.

Modupe Adefeso-Olateju is a recognized organizational leader and policy expert specializing in public-private partnerships and citizen-led assessments in education, and works as the managing director of The Education Partnership Centre, which is Nigeria's pioneering education-partnership organization. Mo advises policymakers, corporations and international think tanks, and leads workstreams on a range of education-sector support initiatives funded by multilateral organizations and corporate funders. She is a member of the team that is drafting Nigeria's mid- and long-term strategic plans. Mo sits on the boards of Malala Fund, Slum2School Africa, and Unveiling Africa Foundation, and is an advisory board member of the People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network. She offers technical advice on scaling education innovation to the Brookings Institution's Center for Universal Education Millions Learning project and the Global Schools Forum Learning Labs. As a Centenary Scholar, she graduated from the UCL Institute of Education with a PhD in Education and International Development and is a Fellow of the Asia-Global Institute in Hong Kong.

Neil Vora is a physician with Conservation International where he leads efforts at the interface between conservation efforts – addressing the underlying drivers of pathogen emergence such as deforestation – and pandemic prevention. He was previously with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which he first joined in 2012 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. While with CDC, Neil deployed to Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist in the responses to the two largest Ebola outbreaks on record, and to the country of Georgia to lead an investigation of a newly discovered virus related to the smallpox virus. In 2020-2021, he led New York City's COVID contact-tracing program composed of over 3,000 staff. He is currently an associate editor at CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases journal and an adjunct professor of internal medicine at Columbia University. Neil still sees patients in a public tuberculosis clinic in New York City.

Petrarca Karetji is the head of Pulse Lab Jakarta of the United Nations Global Pulse network. Pulse Lab Jakarta was established as a big-data innovation lab and is now emerging as an analytic partnership accelerator for development and humanitarian action. Petra has more than 25 years of professional experience, undertaking a range of international-development industry roles. These include as team leader of the Knowledge Sector Initiative in Indonesia for RTI International, an independent, non-profit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition; senior partnerships advisor for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; director for Poverty, Decentralisation and Rural Development in AusAID; director of the Eastern Indonesia Knowledge Exchange/BaKTI and team leader for the Multidonor Support office for Eastern Indonesia within the World Bank; and director of Austraining Nusantara. He holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in development studies from Satya Wacana Christian University.

Soledad Quiroz Valenzuela is a government science advisor in environmental policy working as the executive secretary of the Chilean Scientific Committee on Climate Change. Soledad was recently appointed to the role of vice-president for policy of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) and serves on the steering committee of INGSA's Latin American and Caribbean chapter. She has been a lecturer and researcher in science and technology policy, science advice, and science diplomacy. She participates in the Science Diplomacy Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (DiploCientifica). Soledad holds a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University.

Steven Kern is the deputy director, Quantitative Sciences, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, based in Seattle, Washington, US. He leads a team that provides a crucial evidence-intermediary role, providing quantitative analysis — including data analytics and other forms of evidence — to support foundation teams for therapeutics projects. Before joining the foundation, he was global head of pharmacology modeling at Novartis Pharma AG (based in Basel, Switzerland), where he led a team that provided model-based drug-development support to therapeutics projects in many disease areas and across all stages of drug development. Earlier, he was an associate professor of pharmaceutics, anesthesiology, and bioengineering at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, where he served as co-investigator for the National Institutes of Health–funded Pediatric Pharmacology Research Unit. Steven has designed, conducted, and served as a principal investigator for clinical pharmacology studies that span the population from preterm infants to elderly adults. Steven has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University, a master's degree in bioengineering from Penn State University, and a doctoral degree in bioengineering from the University of Utah. He has published more than 60 papers in the areas of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic modeling, applying principles of control-systems engineering to drug delivery and clinical pharmacology.