

UNDRR Webinar 15 September: Risk-Informed Investment for Macro-Economic Financial Stability

Biographies for panelists and moderator



Mami Mizutori is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Mizutori was Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK from 2011.

Ms. Mizutori served for twenty-seven years in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in various capacities, including: Budget Director; Director of the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) at the Embassy of Japan in London; Director of the National Security Policy Division, Director of the United Nations Policy Division; Director of the Status of US Forces Agreement Division; and Deputy Director of the Personnel Division.

Having graduated in law from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and obtained a Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain, she has taught courses on governance in East Asia at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and international studies at Waseda University, Tokyo.

A Japanese national, Ms. Mizutori speaks fluent Japanese, English and Spanish. She is married to Barak Kushner and lives in Geneva, Switzerland.



Steve Waygood chairs the ESG Senior Leadership Team at Aviva Investors, and is a member of the CIO Investment Committee. Steve founded Aviva Investors' Sustainable Finance Centre for Excellence. He also co-founded the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark, the World Benchmarking Alliance, the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition.

Steve was appointed to the European Commission High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, and the UK Green Finance Taskforce. He also served on the board of the UK Sustainable Investment & Finance association (UKSIF) from 2003 to 2010, serving as its Chairman from 2006.

Steve has a PhD in Sustainable Finance from the University of Surrey. He is an Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow at City's Business School, and also teaches at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Steve has been nominated by the Financial Times as one of their 'warriors of climate change.' He has received awards from prestigious institutions and has also spoken at the World Economic Forum, Columbia University, the London School of Economics, the Singapore Exchange and 10 Downing Street.



Sirpa Pietikäinen is a Finnish Member of the European Parliament representing the European People's Party (EPP) since 2008. She acquired a Master's degree in Business Studies from the Helsinki School of Economics. Ms. Pietikäinen was Finland's Minister of Environment from 1991 to 1995 and a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 1983 to 2003. At the European Parliament, Ms. Pietikäinen is a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM) and the Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport Committee (ANIT). She is also a member of the relations with Palestine Delegation (DPAL) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean Delegation (DMED), as well as a substitute in the Environment and Public Health Committee (ENVI) and the relations with the Pan-African Parliament Delegation (DPAP). In 2015 Ms. Pietikäinen was the rapporteur of the resolution on circular economy, and has given hundreds of speeches about eco-design, waste reduction and policies supporting growth in circular economic practices.



Felix Suntheim is a Financial Sector Expert in the Global Financial Stability Analysis Division of the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department where he co-authored chapters of the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) on climate change risks and sustainable finance. Previously, Felix worked in the Economics Department at the UK's Financial Conduct Authority. His research focuses on empirical corporate finance and financial intermediation. Felix holds a Ph.D. in Finance from Bocconi University, Italy.



John Firth has over 25 years' extensive experience of integrating climate change into decision-making and risk management processes, working with international, national and sub-national governments and with the private sector in developing and developed countries. He has 40 years' professional experience, most of which has been in the private sector within the water sector and then in Acclimatise. In the 12 years since Acclimatise was formed, the company has worked in over 60 countries and completed nearly 350 climate change adaptation and resilience projects.

John is a trained facilitator and has developed and led capacity-building exercises. He has published numerous articles in professional journals and appeared as a speaker at conferences throughout the world. He holds also a B.Sc. in Economics and a Postgraduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning. In 2013 John was named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world on environmental investing and policy making by the *Journal of Environmental Investing*.