



## PANELLISTS - PART 2



### LORENZO KIHLGREN GRANDI

**Founding Director of the City Diplomacy Lab at Columbia Global Centers | Paris** and a lecturer in City Diplomacy at Columbia Undergraduate Global Engagement (UGE | Paris), Sciences Po – PSIA, and École Polytechnique in Paris. His primary expertise and research interests are in the international action of cities and their multilateral response to global challenges, such as sustainable development, migration, and digital transition. Lorenzo gained extensive practical experience in these areas, serving as an officer of the City of Milan's International Relations Department and as an advisor to the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF). He is currently an advisor on city diplomacy strategies for numerous municipalities, city networks, and international organizations.



### NICOLAS GHARBI

**Urban and regional planner, expert in governance and place-based investments.** After starting as researcher and urban planner on the ground, namely on the Dominican-Haitian border, Peru and Portugal, he joined the European Commission. He has been working at the Urban and Territorial competence centre of the European Commission, first as Policy analyst contributing the urban and territorial dimension of EU policies and legislative packages as well as negotiator for the urban and territorial dimension of European Investment Structural Funds; then as Policy Coordinator for Global Urban Affairs responsible for the multilateral dimension of EU urban policies including as EU lead technical negotiator for the UN urban related negotiations. He has then joined the Madrid City Council for two mandates of opposite political sign as Principal Advisor for City Diplomacy and International Affairs, in charge of strategic planning as well as coordination of specific files including the City Resilience and Recovery Plan, Madrid 2030 Urban Agenda and the City International and economic intelligence strategy. Is also a member of the International Society of Cities and Regional Planners, expert on SDG for Cities for the Brookings Institute, a fellow of the Columbia University on City Diplomacy, member of the German Marshall Fund Director General Cities Network and an expert of several UN and OECD urban related expert groups.



### STEFAN WAGNER

**Head of the Department of International Affairs and Global Sustainability of the City of Bonn since 2013.** He is responsible for Bonn's expansion as a Germany's United Nations city and a global hub for sustainable development. He is also in charge of maintaining Bonn's international relations. Since 2009, Bonn has maintained friendly relations with the City of Chengdu (PR China). From 2003- 2013, Mr. Wagner was deputy head of the Executive Board Department for International Affairs and Protocol of the City of Bonn. Previously, he worked as a PR consultant in the field of political communication at an international PR agency. Mr. Wagner holds a degree in administrative sciences from the University of Konstanz. He is married, has two children and lives in Bonn.



### BEKKUL DZHEKSHENKULOV

**Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol for the city of Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic for almost 3 years.** With over 15 years of experience in the field of international relations, Bekkul is responsible for overseeing Bishkek city's foreign aid and development programs, as well as promoting international cooperation and partnerships with other countries, cities and international organizations. Born and raised in Bishkek, graduated with a Master's degree in Law from the Kyrgyz National University named after Dzhusup Balasayn. After completing his studies, Bekkul began his career as an intern at the Kyrgyz – American Company "Vostok", and has held a variety of positions in private companies, international organisations and projects throughout his career. In 2020, he was appointed to the position of Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Protocol of the Bishkek Mayor's Office.





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### JOSE REIS

**Principal Policy Officer at the Greater London Authority**, where he leads on economic policy and strategy, including contributing to the Mayor of London's approach to supporting a fair and green recovery from the economic crisis resulting from COVID-19, Brexit and the recent inflationary pressures. He has previously contributed to developing London's first Urban Resilience Strategy, published in 2019 as part of the 100 Resilient Cities Programme. Before joining the GLA, José worked as a Senior Consultant at Metro Dynamics where he developed local economic development strategies for several UK cities and regions. José has previously worked as an academic researcher and lecturer in the universities of Porto and Cambridge. He is trained as a Civil Engineer and Urban Planner (University of Porto) and completed a PhD in Land Economy at the University of Cambridge in 2015.



### TASSOS KRIEKOUKIS

**Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Athens, City of Athens, Greece.** He joined Diplomatic Service in 1974 and since then worked as Embassy Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens; Secretary of Embassy, Paris, France; Consul of Greece, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Head of Mission) ; Consul General of Greece, Dortmund, Germany; Counsellor of Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens (Head of Latin America Department); Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union ; First Ambassador of Greece in Georgia; Director for European External Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens; Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. He was also elected President of the United Nations Security Council Compensation Commission for the War in Iraq and in 2005 promoted to the grade of Full Ambassador. He also worked as Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens and Ambassador of Greece in the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2010 he retired with the title of Ambassador i.h. During his work life he also obtained several orders and distinctions such as Grand Cross of the Order of the Phoenix (Greece); Grand Officer of the Order of Merit ( Federal Republic of Germany); Grand Cross in gold of the Order of Merit (Austria) Grand Cross of the Order of Merit (Spain); Knight of Merit (France) and more.



### GENCI KOJDHEHI

**General Director of Integration, Strategic Planning and Economic Development at the Municipality of Tirana.** Genci has been with the Municipality since November 2015, working on main infrastructural projects, policy design, integration and EU projects, and was the leader of the team that led Tirana towards the European Youth Capital 2022 and European City of Sports 2023 awards. Prior engagements with the public administration include executive positions within the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the Ministry of Interior, while he has also worked with international organizations such as World Vision, UNDP, and OSCE. Genci holds a BA in Law and an MA in International Law and Human Rights, while he has had over 10 years of lecturing experiences in various public and private universities in Tirana, in subjects including international human rights, comparative international law, international relations, roman law, history of institutions, etc.



### DMITRY SHLAPACHENKO

Mr. Dmitry Shlapachenko of Ukraine has devoted more than **21 years to working for the United Nations (UNDP, DPKO, DPA) both in HQ and in the field.** He also served as a Team Leader for the Horn of Africa as well as UNITAMS backstopping teams in DPPA-DPO. His postings included Tajikistan, Kosovo, New York, Vienna, Iraq and Somalia. His functions ranged from development and socio-economic issues to civil affairs, constitution-making, strategic planning, UN coordination, minority rights and political affairs. Prior to joining the UN System in 1999, he worked with US Peace Corps, OSCE and was a prolific writer on international politics for leading publications in Ukraine.



### GUNN MARIT HELGESEN

Gunn Marit Helgesen is since 2012 a delegate to the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities heading the Norwegian delegation. She has served as Vice-President of the Congress. From 2018 to 2021 she held the position of President of the Chamber of Regions. She is currently Congress' rapporteur on localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, she has been rapporteur in monitoring of implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Moldova, Ukraine, Cyprus, and Armenia and observed local and regional elections in Albania, Denmark, the Netherlands, Armenia, and Morocco. Ms. Helgesen was elected **President of Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)** in December 2022 after having served as Vice-President of since 2013, and Co-President from 2016. She represents Norway in UCLG's World Council and its Executive Bureau.



### GIULIO DE CARLI

**Co-Founder and Managing Partner of One Works and a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence (ExSUF).** As a trained Architect with over 30 years' of international experience, he specialises in the planning and design of transport and aviation-related facilities and infrastructures, providing consultancy to government authorities, operating companies and industry-related clients, as well as public-private partnership deals.