

Marieke Holzapfel

Senior Policy Officer, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Working at the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Marieke Holzapfel is the first point of contact for the DEALS programme at donor level. She has been working at the Ministry for over 15 years and represents the donor in the Advisory Board. The Inclusive Green Growth department is responsible for Dutch foreign policy on climate, water, food security, energy, raw materials and the polar regions. As these themes are closely linked, the department uses an integrated approach as much as possible. This is why the IGG department has created project groups such as the group on Urban Development, in which all thematic areas are represented.

**Jeroen Diepemaat**

Alderman of the City of Enschede (The Netherlands) in the VNG Commission Europe and International, with the portfolio of Global Sustainable Urban Development.

Since 2018, Jeroen Diepemaat has been an alderman with Urban Development, Housing, Culture and the North area of the City in his portfolio. In 2010 he was City Councillor for VVD Enschede and he was also active at European level for the European Liberal Youth, where he was president between 2012 and 2014. From 2014, Diepemaat combined his work as a municipal councillor with a job in healthcare. At TSN he worked as a policy adviser, account manager and board secretary.

**Paul Dixelius**

Associate Consultant, SKL International

SKL International is a company owned by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). It focuses on the development of well-functioning local and regional administrations. At SKL International, Paul Dixelius currently works as an Associate Consultant for the SymbioCity programme, focusing on Tunisia, and facilitates Local Government Association support in Serbia with emphasis on gender mainstreaming, sustainable development, EU-alignment and capacity development. He is specialised in public sector reform with special expertise in local government development and has professional experience in managing development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, former Soviet republics and South-East Europe. As former partner of strategy and analysis consultancy EuroFutures and as Development Director at SKL International, Paul has acquired important knowledge and expertise in organisational development and business management.

**Giorgia Silvestri**

Researcher and Advisor, DRIFT

DRIFT is a world-leading institute for research on and for sustainability transitions. It conducts interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research to better understand and facilitate new ways of thinking, doing and organizing in contemporary transitions. At DRIFT, Giorgia Silvestri works as a consultant and researcher in the area of transition management. She is currently involved in three international projects: SUSTAIN, ARTS and IMPRESSIONS. Her research focuses on sustainability science and sustainability transitions ranging from environmental governance and policies, participatory methods, learning processes and stakeholder engagement strategies.



Fakri Karim

Global Programme Manager, UNCDF Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility

The Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) provides a country-based mechanism to increase awareness and response to climate change at the local level, integrate climate change adaptation into local governments’ planning and budgeting systems in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner, and increase the amount of finance available to local governments for climate change adaptation. Fakri Karim’s has been a key member of UNCDF’s global advocacy and policy team on financing development at the sub-national level, and an influencer with LDCs and SIDS on the climate change and decentralized development finance agendas. Over the past 20 years, he has implemented programmes and projects for UNDP, UNHCR, UNCDF and HDC in post-disaster and conflict areas.



Julian Baskin

Head of Programme, Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is the global partnership supporting cities to deliver sustainable development. It promotes long-term programmatic approaches that support national and local governments to develop appropriate policy frameworks, strengthen local skills and capacity, undertake strategic city planning, and facilitate investment. Julian Baskin is working at Cities Alliance as Head of Programme. Prior to joining Cities Alliance, he served as Director of the Alexandra Renewal Project (ARP), a major urban redevelopment initiative in Alexandra, Gauteng Province, South Africa. During his career he has also worked for the international agencies CARE and UN-HABITAT, the national NGO Planact, the Metro Housing City in Durban, South Africa and the National Institute for Physical Planning in Mozambique. In 1999, he was awarded the Kwa-Zulu Natal Housing Person of the Year award, and a project under his supervision received an Ipululelo Award from the South African parliament for outstanding innovation.



Rotating City

With each Advisory Committee meeting, one of the partner cities in the DEALS programme will take place on a rotating basis.



VNG International

As the implementing organisation of the DEALS programme, VNG International holds the secretariat of the Advisory Committee.

