

#EmissionsGap

# Emissions Gap Report 2018

27 November 2018

16:00-17:30

Palais Brongniart,  
28 Place de la Bourse,  
Paris, France



**UN**   
**environment**

United Nations  
Environment Programme

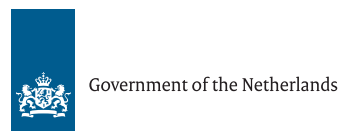
UN Environment welcomes you to attend the global launch of the 2018 Emissions Gap Report on 27 November 2018 at the Palais Brongniart in Paris, France. The annual report from UN Environment serves as the world's definitive assessment of the so-called 'emissions gap': The gap between anticipated emission levels in 2030, compared to levels consistent with a 2°C / 1.5° target.

A panel of authors and experts will offer the latest insight on the pace of climate change and climate action through a presentation of key findings from the Emissions Gap Report. Including the latest data on global emissions, analyses on the state of pledges made under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions) and a review of new climate action in the context of fiscal policy, innovation, and contributions from cities, states, and the private sector.

The Emissions Gap Report is UN Environment's flagship report, presenting an annual assessment of current national mitigation efforts and the ambitions countries have presented in their Nationally Determined Contributions, which form the foundation of the Paris Agreement. The report describes the gap between the countries' promises on how much they will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the actual reduction required if we are to keep global warming to a global mean temperature increase well below 2°C by the end of this century.



Supported by:



# Programme Overview

**Kurt Van Dender,**  
Head of the Tax Environment Unit  
Organization for Economic  
Co-operation and Development (OECD)



Kurt Van Dender is a Senior Tax Economist leading the Tax and Environment Unit, which is part of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration.

Previously, he was Chief Economist at the International Transport Forum and Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California at Irvine. He has also served as a researcher at the University of Leuven (Belgium), where he obtained his Ph.D. with a dissertation on the economics of road pricing.

Tax instruments and carbon pricing, their interactions with tax systems and other environmental policies, are a particular topic of interest to Mr. Dender. His work is published in leading academic journals, and he is a lead author of several reports published by the International Transport Forum. He is also a co-author of OECD work on the taxation of energy use and carbon pricing.

He is a frequent advisor to policy-makers, he often speaks at research and policy conferences and meetings, and has organized or co-organized several such events.

**Dr. Gregor Semieniuk,**  
Lecturer in Economics  
SOAS, University of London



Dr Gregor Semieniuk is a Lecturer in Economics at SOAS, University of London, and the Economics Department's Undergraduate Admissions Tutor. Gregor is also currently Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at UCL and Associate Research Faculty at the Science Policy Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex.

He is a lead author on UNEP's 2018 Emission Gap Report on low-carbon innovation policy. Before joining SOAS, he studied the financing of technical change and innovation in the renewable energy industry as a Research Fellow at SPRU on the Horizon 2020 project DOLFINS - Distributed Global Financial Systems for Society.

A Foreign Fulbright Fellow, Gregor completed his PhD in Economics at the New School for Social Research in New York City, where part of his research informed the modelling of energy in aggregate economic growth for the INET-funded project Growth, Distribution and Stability.

## Registration

### Opening remarks

**Satya Tripathi,**  
UN Assistant Secretary-General,  
Head of UN Environment in NY

### Main findings 2018 Emissions Gap Report

**Anne Olhoff,**  
Head of Programme,  
Climate Resilient Development,  
UNEP-DTU Partnership

### National climate plans (NDCs)

**Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne,**  
Founding Partner,  
NewClimate Institute

### The role of non-state actors

**Dr. Angel Hsu,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Yale-NUS College

### The role of fiscal policy

**Kurt Van Dender,**  
Head of the Tax Environment Unit  
Organization for Economic Co-operation and  
Development (OECD)

### The role of innovation

**Dr. Gregor Semieniuk,**  
Lecturer in Economics  
SOAS, University of London

### Closing remarks

**Satya Tripathi,**  
UN Assistant Secretary-General,  
Head of UN Environment in NY

### Media Q & A

### Close

# Speakers at 2018 launch of the Emissions Gap Report

**Satya Tripathi,**  
UN Assistant Secretary-General,  
Head of UN Environment in NY



Mr. Satya Tripathi is Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme and a Senior Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Environment Programme. Since 1998, he has served with the UN in Europe, Asia and Africa on strategic assignments in sustainable development, human rights, democratic governance and legal affairs.

He previously served as the Director and Executive Head of the UN Office for REDD+ Coordination in Indonesia, as well as for the UN Recovery Coordinator for the US\$ 7 billion post-tsunami and post-conflict recovery efforts in Aceh and Nias. He was Chair of the Committees on Laws and Treaties for the UN-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004. Mr. Tripathi served as a Senior Distinguished Fellow on Natural Resources Governance with the World Agroforestry Centre; and on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests.

Mr. Tripathi holds Honours Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Commerce; and Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Law from Berhampur University, India.

**Anne Olhoff,**  
Head of Programme,  
Climate Resilient Development,  
UNEP-DTU Partnership



Anne Olhoff heads the Climate Resilient Development Programme at the UN Environment DTU Partnership, where she is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of climate resilient development activities.

She has twenty years of experience in international policy advice, technical assistance and research on climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy and technologies in the context of sustainable development.

Since 2012, Anne has - in close collaboration with UN Environment and colleagues at the UNEP DTU Partnership - been managing, editing and co-authoring the UN Environment Emissions Gap Reports, guiding and coordinating the work of international teams of around 40 leading scientists from at least 20 scientific groups in more than 20 countries annually. The Gap reports are internationally recognised as authoritative science-based assessments that help inform the UNFCCC negotiations, and they are the most frequently cited and downloaded UN Environment reports. Partly in recognition of this work, Anne received the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) award for scientific advice in 2017.

Anne holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Roskilde in Denmark.

**Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne,**  
Founding Partner,  
NewClimate Institute



Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne is a founding partner of NewClimate Institute and a Special Professor "mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions" at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. He has previously worked at Ecofys, a leading climate and energy consultancy where he last was Director of Energy and Climate Policy. Niklas has also worked as a staff member of the UNFCCC secretariat (1998 to 2001), where he supported the negotiations on various issues, including reporting under the Kyoto Protocol, projections of greenhouse gas emissions, fluorinated greenhouse gases and emissions from international transport.

He is lead author for the IPCC Fourth and Fifth Assessment Report for the chapter on climate policies and international cooperation and also lead author of the UN Environment Emissions Gap reports 2010 to 2018. He created the Climate Action Tracker that tracks commitments and actions of countries on climate change.

He holds a PhD from the University of Utrecht for his dissertation on "What is next after the Kyoto Protocol – Assessment of options for international climate policy post 2012".

**Dr. Angel Hsu,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Yale-NUS College



Dr. Angel Hsu is an Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Environmental Studies) at Yale-NUS College and Adjunct of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She is Founder and Director of Data-Driven Yale, a multidisciplinary research team of policy researchers, data scientists, programmers, and visual communicators. Her research explores the intersection of science and policy and the use of data-driven approaches to understand environmental sustainability, in the areas of climate change and energy, urbanization and air quality.

Previously, as a Research Analyst at the World Resources Institute (WRI), she developed corporate greenhouse gas accounting and reporting initiatives in developing countries, including Mexico, Brazil, India, Philippines and China. She has written in and been cited by major media outlets, including The Economist, The Atlantic, and The Guardian and provided expert testimony for the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

She is a graduate of Biology and Political Science, holds an MPhil in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in Forestry and Environmental Studies from Yale University.