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UN DAY 2025

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE

UNITED NATIONS

24 October 2025, 10:00

UN City Copenhagen, Marmorvej 51, 2100 Copenhagen



UN
environment
programme

copenhagen
climate centre



unicef
for every child



UNOPS



Programme

Moderated by Lillian Gjerulf Kretz

Welcome Address by Jorge Moreira da Silva, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNOPS

Keynote Address by Magnus Heunicke, Minister for Environment and Gender Equality

Musical Performance by the Emergency Aid Orchestra

Panel 1: Reflecting on Eight Decades of UN Milestones

Mette Thygesen, International Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights

H.E. Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to Denmark

Adam Moe Fejerskov, Head of Unit for Sustainable Development and Governance, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)

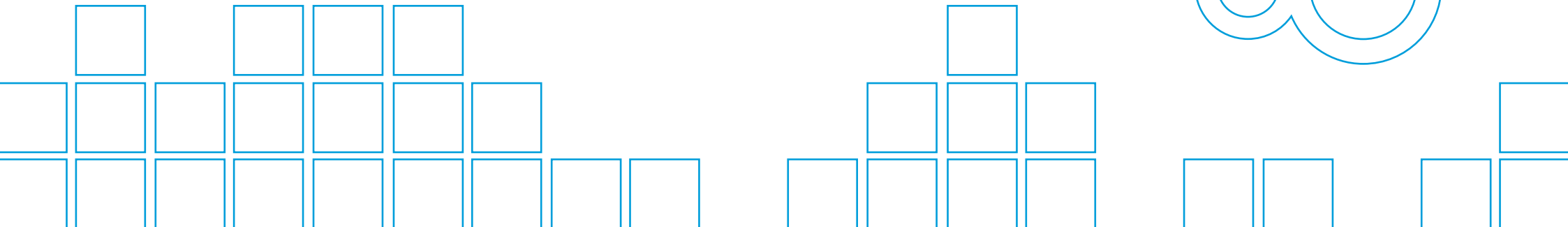
Panel 2: Adapting Multilateralism to Emerging Realities

Carsten Staur, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee

H.E. Joëlle Jenny, British Ambassador to Denmark

Leena Ghalib, UNOPS Youth Engagement Platform Representative

Reception



Speaker Bios



Jorge Moreira da Silva, Under-Secretary-General and UNOPS Executive Director

Jorge Moreira da Silva, Under-Secretary-General and UNOPS Executive Director Jorge Moreira da Silva joined UNOPS in April 2023. He has extensive experience working in the public and development sectors, with a strong focus on climate change, energy, and the environment. Previously, he was the Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Portugal's Minister for the Environment, Territorial Planning and Energy, Secretary of State on Environment and Secretary of State on Science and Higher Education. He also served as Senior Environmental Finance Adviser and as Programme Manager on Climate Change Innovative Finance at the UN Development Programme. As a member of the European Parliament, he authored the legislation that created the European Union Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme. He holds a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a postgraduate degree in Senior Management.



Magnus Heunicke, Minister for Environment and Gender Equality

Magnus Heunicke is Denmark's Minister for Environment and Gender Equality and a long-serving member of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) representing the Social Democrats. Since his election in 2005, he has held several key ministerial positions, including Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Transport. Throughout his career, Minister Heunicke has been a leading voice on health policy, sustainability, and equality, and now leads Denmark's efforts to advance environmental protection and gender equality at both the national and international levels.



H.E. Joëlle Jenny, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Denmark

H.E. Joëlle Jenny was appointed Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Denmark in October 2024. She previously served as Director for South East Asia & Pacific at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, where she was also Special Envoy for Myanmar. She has held senior roles in the UK Cabinet Office and the European External Action Service, focusing on security policy, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention. With more than 25 years of experience, she has worked across European institutions and international organizations, specializing in diplomacy, international security, and conflict resolution.

Speaker Bios



H.E. Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Denmark

H.E. Manish Prabhat assumed charge as Ambassador of India to Denmark in April 2024. Throughout his career in the Indian Foreign Service, he has served in key postings across Europe, Central Asia, and North America, including as Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Deputy Chief of Mission in France, and Consul General in Italy. He has also held assignments in Russia, the United States, and Armenia, and served in senior roles at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, overseeing Eurasia, finance and regional cooperation portfolios. In his current position, he focuses on strengthening India's diplomatic relations with Denmark and works to advance the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership.



Carsten Staur, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee

Carsten Staur has served as Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee since March 2023. With over forty years of experience in diplomacy and international development, he has been Denmark's Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Permanent Representative to the UN in both Geneva and New York, and State Secretary for International Development Cooperation. He has also served as Director for Development Policy and Planning, Ambassador to Israel, and Under Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds a degree in History and Literature and has published widely on globalisation, multilateralism, the United Nations, and Danish foreign policy.



Mette Thygesen, International Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights

Mette Thygesen has been International Director at the Danish Institute for Human Rights since November 2022. She has served as Denmark's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan, as well as Permanent Representative to the African Union and Special Representative to the Sahel and Maghreb. From 2019 to 2022, she was Head of Department for Humanitarian Action, Civil Society, and Engagement at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has also worked with the European Commission and has extensive experience in multilateral cooperation within the EU and UN.

Speaker Bios



Adam Moe Fejerskov, Head of Unit for Sustainable Development and Governance, Danish Institute for International Studies

Adam Moe Fejerskov is Head of Unit for Sustainable Development and Governance at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Progress in Development Studies* and the Danish journal *Samfundskøkonomien*. He sits on the Development Policy Council (appointed by the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy), the Danish Emergency Relief Fund, in EADI's Executive Committee, and on the advisory board of several international journals. He studies the terrains and ramifications of contemporary global inequalities, with a particular interest in how global and local politics and relations are shaped by imaginaries of progress and future.



Leena Ghalib, UNOPS Youth Engagement Platform Representative

Leena Ghalib is a young professional serving as Portfolio Senior Officer at the UNOPS Geneva office. With nearly a decade of experience, she has contributed to partnerships for malaria eradication with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, promoted human rights in the Middle East with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, and supported research on maternal and child health in Sudan. As a member of the UNOPS Youth Engagement Platform, she represents a cohort of 30 under-30 leaders striving to accelerate progress on sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. Bringing both a youth and a Global South perspective, she draws on her lived experience to advocate for more inclusive and equitable approaches to policy and leadership, emphasizing the importance of reform through the UN80 Initiative.



Lillian Gjerulf Kretz, UN Day 2025 Moderator

Lillian Gjerulf Kretz is a Danish journalist and news anchor, widely recognized for her expertise in U.S. politics and society. With years of experience as a foreign correspondent, she has brought global perspectives to Danish audiences, particularly on the role of the United States in multilateral cooperation. In 2023, she returned to Denmark to become anchor of *TV Avisen*, continuing to inform and engage viewers with clarity and depth. She will serve as moderator for UN Day 2025 – 80th Anniversary of the United Nations, guiding discussions on the United Nations' enduring role in global cooperation and the future of multilateralism.