

# Digital Democracy for Climate Action

Science Summit at the United Nations General Assembly - NYC, SEP 18, 2023.

Session program



Puyanawa tribe, Brasil

Everyone, Everywhere, All At Once.  
**#EEAAO**

SSUNGA78, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

# Session Overview

## Digital Democracy for Climate Action



### What

An interactive session for Accelerating Climate Action titled Everyone Everywhere All At Once (#EEAAO). This session will also be shared as part of the Regeneration Heroes film and photo series.

### Who

Scientists, experts, indigenous people, policymakers, business leaders and activists will come together to share insights, best practices and foster strategic collaboration that will help shape our collective future.

### Why

Urgent action is needed amid escalating climate impacts. This session explores digitizing democracy and democratizing the internet to assist communities in addressing the crisis.

### Where

At the Harvard Club, a United Nations approved venue in New York City and online. Latest: <https://sched.co/1O4rK>

### When

During NYC Climate Week, Monday September 18th 8am - 4:30pm





# Session Abstract

## Digital Democracy for Climate Action



Addressing climate change and its catastrophic consequences requires a proactive and inclusive strategy. As progress has been too slow, we must forge a superior path to unleash the collective drive of citizens of the world, for sustainability and regeneration now.

The digital revolution has provided us with the tools to mobilize the needs, informed consent, and human capital of 8 billion people toward achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Technology facilitates the connection of individuals on a large scale, enabling both bottom-up and top-down civic participation. We strive for democratic ideals while traditional power hierarchies are being reshaped by digitization.

By bringing together leaders in science, technology and the arts, with youth and with Indigenous leaders whose knowledge and practices have protected ecosystems for thousands of years, this session will examine and develop approaches to best work together to a better future, reversing climate change.



Puwe Puyanawa

# Session Schedule

Digital Democracy for Climate Action



THROUGHOUT - FUTURE VISIONS: REGENERATIVE HEROES  
INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

**SESSION A**  
DIGITAL DEMOCRACY FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**SESSION B**  
CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND REBALANCING POWER

**SESSION C**  
DATA COOPERATIVES AND DIGITAL COMMONS

**SESSION D**  
CONSCIOUS CAPITALISM

**SESSION E**  
DIGITAL REGENERATIVE HEROES AWARDS  
WRAP-UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS





# Future Visions: Regenerative Heroes Interactive Art Exhibition

## Reimagining a better collective future

- Highlight artistic/creative visions of collaborations to achieve a better future.
- Representation of regeneration heroes combatting climate change and creating better future visions - youth, First Nations, developing nations, all continents.
- Interactive opportunity at the Science Summit for regeneration leaders to be photographed and interviewed by Indrani or online for advocates to submit their photo and quote for inclusion.
- Awards celebrating regeneration advocates and artists, to amplify their voices and celebrate their important work.



## When?

During the UN Climate Week and UNGA78, UN delegates and participants will be able to enjoy and contribute to art submissions.

1. Global exposure for regeneration leaders, artists, and advocates.
2. Contribute to 2024's interactive contest judged by leading creatives/artists/experts

# Real World Case Studies

Lead example: Puyanawa indigenous tribe of the Amazon

**The Amazon Rainforest is the Earth's lungs and at a global tipping point. Our planet's nature-based climate solution, it absorbs carbon, shelters our greatest biodiversity, and is stewarded by Indigenous tribes. Its survival is vital for humanity and ecosystems worldwide.**

The Amazon Puyanawa Indigenous Tribe, X-PRIZE Rainforest Semi-finalists, offer a compelling case to explore. Highlighting their vital efforts and collaborating with scientists, technologists, artists and storytellers, we will center their voices, learn from them, foster awareness, and drive collaboration at the nexus of indigenous rights, conservation, and innovation.



## Other Groups include:

- Australian Aboriginal Tribes fighting fossil fuel industry devastation
- Arctic Angels to protect our global commons
- Blackfoot activist Eugene Brave Rock cultural regeneration in Canada and the US
- Vanuatu law students creating international laws to 'Stop Ecocide'
- Kenyan Green Generation initiative and Rise Up movement
- Young Indian activists suing government for inaction and petitioning the UN
- Mexican Otomi community as a leading voice for immigrant visibility

# World Class Participants



Eugene Brave Rock

**Nobel Laureate Carlos Nobre** prominent climate & space scientist whose extensive research on the Amazon rainforest and its vital role in global climate stability led to a deeper understanding of climate systems.

**Bill Wehl**, Founder and Executive Director of ClimateVoice. Ex-Director of Sustainability at Facebook, ex-Green Energy Czar at Google.

**Dr. Michael K Dorsey**, Chair & Director Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, scientist, Investor & Advisor, Change Finance & Former Advisor, EPA , Co-founder Sunrise Movement.

**Sinan Aral**, scientist, author, expert in business analytics, social, economic & health impacts of social media on society. MIT Prof & Director, MIT Digital Economy Initiative, & Advisor Alan Turin Institute.

**Henk Rogers**, founder of Tetris, Blue Planet Alliance, & International MoonBase Alliance, Chairman, Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems.

**Ricky Kej**, three x Grammy Award-Winning Composer and Environmentalist who advocates for a harmonious relationship between humanity and the planet.

**Kevin Chand**, Vanuatu legal team behind International Court of Justice Resolution to address climate change.

**Txukukaytxi Rosa'ne Puyanawa**, indigenous youth activist of the Puyanawa tribe Guardians of the Amazon.

**Inder Monga** US Federal Government's Lawrence Berkeley National Labs & US Department of Energy.



# World Class Participants



**Txukukaytxi Puyanawa and Vari Puyanawa**

## Continued

**Tom De Santo** (*X-Men, Transformers*) filmmaker who uses storytelling to drive climate action and inspire viewers to take part in the movement for change.

**Dror Poleg**, author investigating the impact of technology on the way people work, live, and invest.

**Mei Lin Fung**, executive director, and co-founder of People's Centred Internet.

**Navroop Sahdev**, CEO, The Digital Economist, Fellow, MIT Connection Science, Former Researcher at Harvard Kennedy.

**Eugene Brave Rock**, Wonder Woman actor & Blackfoot cultural advocate.

**Puwe Puyanawa**, Spiritual Leader of the Puyanawa Tribe, plant botanist, and Amazonian Indigenous activist.

**Jeremy McKane**, Founder & CEO OCN.AI, groundbreaking BlueSense™ tech for real-time AI-driven analysis of marine ecosystems. International Artist.

**Kelvin Kong**, Australia's first Aboriginal surgeon and NAIDOC Australian of the year 2023.

**Curvinder Ahluwalia** Founder & CEO of Digital Twin Labs and previous CTO of IBM, the first to co-create proof of use of blockchain for institutional use.

**Wangari Kuria** CEO of Farmer on Fire Ltd. in Kenya, championing sustainable agriculture, winner 40 under 40 African prize and Global Citizen Prize.



# Session A



## Digital Democracy for Climate Action

**Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people." - Abraham Lincoln.**

Does this statement still apply, if so, how can we use the digital transformation of society to harness the peoples desire for a better future?

This session will showcase change makers, renowned experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and representatives from civil society to examining challenges, approaches and opportunities, we strive to unlock the transformative potential of the Internet for global collaboration in addressing the climate crisis.

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### Desired outcomes

#### Knowledge platforms

1. Creation of an online platform that serves as a hub for climate change knowledge exchange, enabling individuals and communities to access and share information, resources, and best practices.
2. Implementation of educational programs and initiatives that equip individuals with the necessary skills to navigate and critically evaluate climate-related information online, fostering informed discussions and reducing the spread of misinformation.
3. Information hygiene

#### Declaration of Interdependence

Formation of international alliances and networks focused on sharing experiences, resources, and expertise, enabling cross-regional collaboration on climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

# Session B



## Civic Participation and Rebalancing Power

**"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – Mother Teresa**

**"Action is the antidote to despair" - Joan Baez**

How can citizens empower communities and politicians (and hold them to account) to make laws that incentivise sustainable and regenerative transformation?

In this session, which will showcase experts and activists from all continents who are most affected by climate change or actively combatting it, we will discuss solutions and aim to generate recommendations for leveraging the Internet to harness the people's drive for a sustainable future. By examining various approaches and opportunities, we strive to unlock the transformative potential of the Internet for global collaboration in addressing the climate crisis.

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### Desired outcomes

#### Digital Democracy

1. Encourage the use worldwide of digital technology to engage global citizens in the sustainable and regenerative transformation - gain their participation by engaging and incentivising them and providing positive visions of our future.
2. Provide web-based platforms for civic participation and engagement with elected representatives in real time.

#### Transition Laws

Engagement with policymakers and stakeholders to drive the adoption of regulations and policies that encourage the development and deployment of sustainable technologies, promote renewable energy sources, and reduce carbon emissions.



# Session C



## Data cooperatives and digital commons

**"In the digital age, data is power and data commons is shared power." - Gael Van Weyenbergh**

How can civil society take advantage of the digital transformation of society for a more democratic and sustainable future?

This session will raise awareness about the emerging concepts of data cooperatives and digital commons, highlighting their potential in fostering a more cooperative Internet and inclusive and equitable future.

Additionally, we will explore the relationship between these concepts and their role in promoting climate action. In particular, how can data cooperatives help in:

- shaping broad accountability
- democratizing social platforms
- monitoring biodiversity
- mobilizing collective efforts on a global scale

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## Desired outcome

### A Lighthouse Pilot Project

We aim to establish a lighthouse pilot project where individuals and organizations can discuss ways to share climate-related data, fostering collective insights, research, and informed decision-making.

# Session D



## Conscious Capitalism

### **"We need systems change, not climate change" - Greta Thunberg**

Addressing the urgent challenges of today, such as climate change, global risks, inequality, and more, requires a fundamental shift in our economic, political, and social systems. This session explores short-term strategies like digital innovation, AI, blockchain, and web 3, while also outlining the path to long-term systemic change. Some advocate for reimagining capitalism, while others seek to harness its power for good. We will examine the roles of government, business, big tech, media, civil society, consumers, and investors in achieving:

1. Short-term victories, like renewable energy adoption.
2. Aligning economic and political incentives for long-term regenerative and just systems.
3. Bridging divisions in public opinion and policy.
4. Shifting investments and philanthropy toward humanity and the planet.
5. Entrepreneurship, training, mentoring and support
6. Governance, shareholders, employees and consumers contributions
7. Supply chains
8. Showcasing innovative public-private collaborations

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## Desired outcome

Our objective is to discern and promote optimal practices while cultivating an ecosystem that drives us towards a regenerative, nature-based economy. Our mission encompasses the swift implementation of actionable solutions, the charting of a strategic course for the collective benefit, the mitigation of present and future risks, the integration of a diverse array of stakeholders, and the meticulous enhancement of recommendations intended for global leadership forums such as G20, COP28, Davos, and the World Economic Forum. Moreover, we are committed to extending our influence to local and national initiatives, ensuring our impact resonates widely.



# Meet the Convenors

**Science Summit 2023 at the United Nations**

**General Assembly 78**

## Digital Democracy for Climate Action



**A/Prof Rob Eisenberg**

Created and developed Vote Earth Now to help Aussie voters make 2022 'The Climate' election. Eminent surgeon.



**Andrea Soccorso**

Advisor, Climate Voices; Co founder AfterWEVote for democracy & civic action, Advisor/Frmr Dir. Strategic Partnerships Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi



**Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri**

Director, Photographer, Innovator, Movement Mobilizer, TEDx speaker, X-PRIZE Semifinalist, co-founder Shakti Regeneration Institute, Open Origin. Princeton University Visiting Lecturer



**Gael Van Weyenbergh**

Co-founder of Meoh.io, a civil society organization focused on digital cooperation and governance.

# Contact

Thank you for your consideration in making a significant contribution to a sustainable and regenerative future.

Please contact:

**A/Prof Rob Eisenberg**

**Email:** [rob@voteearthnow.com](mailto:rob@voteearthnow.com)

**Andrea Soccorso**

**Email:** [soccorsoa4@gmail.com](mailto:soccorsoa4@gmail.com)

**Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri**

**Email:** [indrani@indrani.com](mailto:indrani@indrani.com)

**Gael Van Weyenbergh**

**Email:** [gael@meoh.io](mailto:gael@meoh.io)



All photos of the Puyanawas, Amazon Protectors in "Heroes of Regeneration" series & film by Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri, produced by GK Reid [www.ShaktiRegeneration.org](http://www.ShaktiRegeneration.org)