

## **BREAKING NEWS**

Side Event: Electric Transportation for Sustainable Development:  
Public-Private Initiatives

December 1st, United Nations Headquarters, 3-5 PM, Conference Room 12.

RSVP for non-U.N. pass holders at [ngosustainability@gmail.com](mailto:ngosustainability@gmail.com)

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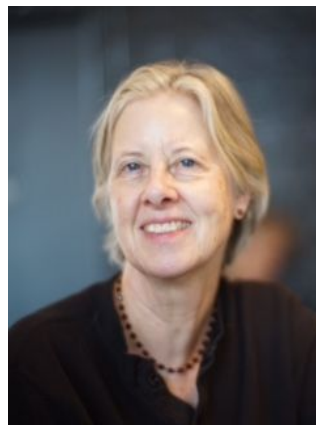
In Consultant Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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### **Board Member Portraits**



**Maritza Struyvenberg**

Maritza, a lawyer from the Netherlands, spent the majority of her career at the United Nations. Before her retirement in 2014, she served as the first Principal Registrar of the Office of Administration of Justice, which was established in 2009. Maritza also worked in the United Nations Division of Economic and Social affairs. Currently she is an independent consultant and works with the UN and other organizations as an investigator.

## Canada Wants to Solve U.S. Nuclear Woes With Faraway Dams



By Joe Ryan and Jim Polson

Hydro-Quebec is building a series of dams that will generate enough electricity for more than one million homes. The \$5.2 billion project on the Romaine River is part of an expansion the government-owned utility began in 2007, with the intention of selling power to the U.S. where nuclear reactors are closing. A key advantage of hydropower is that unlike wind and solar, it's always running, similar to nuclear and fossil-fuel plants. The environmental impact.

Hydro-Quebec's four dams on the Romaine River require flooding as much as 100 square miles of forest, which alters ecosystems and release greenhouse gases as submerged foliage decomposes.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-13/canada-wants-to-solve-u-s-nuclear-problems-with-faraway-dams>

## China Hastens the World Toward an Electric-Car Future



By Keith Bradsher

Beijing has already called for one out of every five cars sold in China to run on alternative fuel by 2025. Last month, China issued new rules that would require the world's carmakers to sell more alternative-energy cars here if they wanted to continue selling regular ones.

Already, China is the world's largest maker and seller of electric cars, expected to sell almost 300,000 of them this year.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/business/china-hastens-the-world-toward-an-electric-car-future.html>

### ***An Electric Car and a Rugged Throwback: The Dreams of 2 Rich Britons***



By Stanley Reed and Amie Tsang

James Dyson, best known for innovative vacuum cleaners, said recently that he was preparing to introduce a new electric car and had 400 people working on the project. And Jim Ratcliffe, a billionaire petrochemical executive, is also investing in electric vehicles. Electric cars are clearly a high-risk venture. None of the vehicles on the market, including those made by Tesla, which recently reported disappointing production numbers on its new Model 3, are making money for their owners. Dyson may seek to bring costs down by manufacturing in Asia, where it already makes appliances.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/12/automobiles/wheels/startup-car-markers.html>

### ***G.M. and Ford Lay Out Plans to Expand Electric Models***



By Bill Vlasic and Neal E. Boudette

On Monday, General Motors, America's largest automaker, staked its claim to electric vehicle leadership, by announcing plans for 20 new all-electric models by 2023. After the G.M. news emerged, Ford let loose with its own announcement, saying it would add 13 electrified models over the next several years, with a five-year investment of \$4.5 billion. The announcements by G.M. and Ford follow pledges by the German automakers Volkswagen and Daimler to build hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles in the coming years, and the decision by Volvo, the Chinese-owned Swedish luxury brand, to convert its entire lineup to either electric cars or hybrid vehicles that are powered by both batteries and gas.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/02/business/general-motors-electric-cars.html>

### ***London Adds Charge for Older Diesel Vehicles to Fight Pollution***



By Liam Stack and Jack Ewing

Starting on Monday, drivers in the center of the British capital whose cars do not meet European Union emissions standards had to pay an additional daily penalty. The change comes amid a Europe-wide backlash against diesel in the wake of a scandal in which several major carmakers, particularly Volkswagen, secretly cut corners on environmental standards. London's action is likely to embolden other European cities to impose similar restrictions. Paris, Madrid and Athens have announced plans to ban diesels beginning in 2025.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/23/business/london-diesel-congestion-charge.html>

### ***Public Shaming and Even Prison for Plastic Bag Use in Rwanda***



By Kimiko de Freytas-Tamura

In Rwanda, it is illegal to import, produce, use or sell plastic bags and plastic packaging except within specific industries like hospitals and pharmaceuticals. The nation is one of more than 40 around the world that have banned, restricted or taxed the use of plastic bags, including China, France and Italy. Smugglers can receive up to six months in jail. The executives of companies that keep or make illegal plastic bags can be imprisoned for up to a year, officials say. Though at least 15 African countries have enacted some sort of ban, many still have plastic bags littered on roads, stuck in drain pipes or caught in trees. Cattle die eating the bags because they obstruct digestion. In informal settlements in places like Kenya, plastic bags are sometimes used as “flying toilets” containing human waste.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/28/world/africa/rwanda-plastic-bags-banned.html>

## ***China's New Antipollution Push Could Cool Its Growth Engine***



By Keith Bradsher

On Aug. 21, the environmental authorities ordered more than two dozen cities in northern China, including many main steel production centers, to reduce air pollution by 15 percent this winter. If successful, the antipollution campaign could produce bluer skies and cleaner water across China, with potential health benefits for the country's 1.3 billion people. Although China now leads the world in its installations of solar and wind power, it still relies on coal to generate three-quarters of its electricity.

The country's top priority has been shifting away from maximizing economic output and toward environmental protection, so companies must adapt. Beyond maximizing economic output, Mr. Xi said that his country needed to address a new dilemma, and one that implies greater attention to environmental protection, "between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/23/business/china-pollution-economy.html>

## ***Syria Joins Paris Climate Accord, Leaving Only U.S. Opposed***



By Lisa Friedman

Syria announced during United Nations climate talks on Tuesday that it would sign the Paris agreement on climate change. The move, which comes on the heels of Nicaragua signing the accord last month, will leave the United States as the only country that has rejected the global pact. The Paris agreement, struck in 2015 under former President Barack Obama, calls on nearly 200 countries to voluntarily curb greenhouse gas emissions. At the time, only Nicaragua and Syria did not join, for very different reasons. Nicaraguan leaders argued that the deal did not go far enough toward keeping carbon emissions at safe levels and helping vulnerable countries protect themselves from the effects of climate change. Under the rules of the Paris agreement, the United States cannot formally withdraw until late 2020. Until then, administration officials have said, they will continue to negotiate the terms of the deal, but they have not specified what changes would be sufficient for the United States to reconsider quitting

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/07/climate/syria-joins-paris-agreement.html>

### ***G.O.P. Seizes Chance to Open Drilling in Arctic Wildlife Refuge***

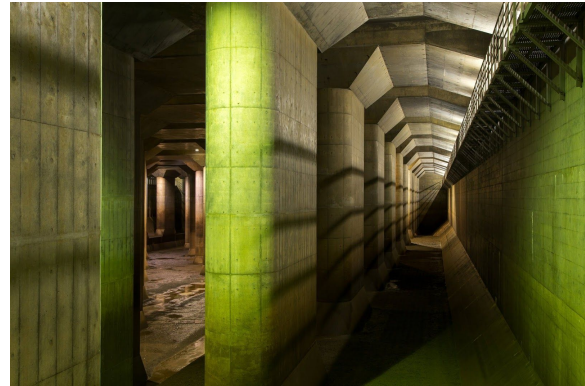


By Henry Fountain and Lisa Friedman

Allowing new seismic studies using improved technology to get a clearer picture of where the oil is, environmental groups say that even studying the land in this way damages it. In a memo in August, Interior Department officials proposed changing a rule that had limited exploratory studies in the refuge to the mid-1980s. Under the proposed change, such studies could now be undertaken anytime. The proposal would likely be challenged in court by environmental groups. Then there is the budget resolution instructing the Senate to reduce deficits by \$1 billion over 10 years, with the implicit understanding that the money would come from oil exploration or drilling.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/13/climate/arctic-drilling.html>

### **Tokyo is Preparing for Floods "Beyond Anything We've Seen"**



By Hiroko Tabuchi

Linked by tunnels that divert water away from the North of Tokyo's most vulnerable floodplains, the \$2 billion underground anti-flood system, completed in 2006, is an extraordinary example of the defenses that global cities are readying as they face an era of extreme weather brought on by climate change.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/06/climate/tokyo-floods.html>

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