

Press release

**EMBARGO**

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## **Professor Eeva Furman is the Friend of the United Nations of the Year 2020**

*Professor Eeva Furman has been given the honor of being the Friend of the UN of the Year. The Friend of the UN is now nominated for the fourth time. The previous Friend of the UN was the President of the Republic Sauli Niinistö. The nomination is awarded by the Friends of the UN in Finland network.*

Professor Eeva Furman is the director of the Environmental Policy Center at the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). He is also the chairperson of the Finnish Sustainability Panel. Furman receives an honor of being the Friend of the UN for her extensive work in promoting sustainable development. "I have worked for international environmental protection my entire career. I have seen that it is work for peace."

Furman has assessed the state of sustainable development in an independent group of 15 top experts appointed by the UN. For four years, the group examined what countries and the UN should do to change the current world development path and steer it on a sustainable path. The research team gave its report to world leaders last year and found the situation serious. "We need great societal system change," says Furman. "The UN Sustainable Development Goals serve as a compass for change."

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

The *Friend of the UN* is nominated by the Steering Committee of the Friends of the UNA in Finland. The goal of the network is to strengthen the expertise and international participation of Finns on the topics the UN is working on, as well as make Finland's UN policies better known. You can join the network [here](#).

The nomination will be celebrated in the opening ceremony of the Agenda - Art 2030 event on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. The United Nations turns 75 this year. The International UN Day is celebrated on 24 October.



Members of the Steering Committee of the Friends of the UN in Finland in 2020 :  
Professor Helena Ranta (Chairperson), CEO Gunvor Kronman, education expert Ritva Semi, journalist Rauli Virtanen, entrepreneur Peter Vesterbacka, EU foreign and defense policy expert Jari Haapiainen, Secretary General of Global Compact Finland Lenita Toivakka.



The UN week is celebrated with the Agenda - Art 2030 events, among others. All UN Week events can be found on the [UNA Finland website](#).

Additional information:

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