



### **Keynote Address**

**Prof.dr. Gerard van der Steenhoven**  
*Netherlands Ministry of Interior  
and the University of Twente  
Netherlands*

Gerard van der Steenhoven is a special advisor at the Ministry of the Interior (and Kingdom Relations) in the Netherlands, and part-time professor at the University of Twente in meteorological and climatological disaster risk reduction. From 2014 until 2023 he served a nine-year term as Director General of the Royal Netherlands' Meteorological Institute (KNMI). Previously, he was dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Twente (2008 – 2013), and president of the Netherlands' Physical Society (NNV, 2007 – 2013). As KNMI director he initiated a multi-annual investment in the renewal of the observational and IT infrastructure of the institute, leading to the development of a national Early Warning Center. Within Europe he served as chair of the EUMETSAT council (2018 – 2022) and initiated the development of the first European NMHS directors' strategy (2016). At present his activities focus on supporting various climate initiatives in the Netherlands (such as the national Climate Research Initiative NL, and the regional Delta Climate Centre in Vlissingen), various assessment committees, public lectures and advisory work. Gerard van der Steenhoven obtained his PhD in experimental physics at the Vrije Universiteit in 1987 and worked as a postdoc at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) thereafter. In 1989 he started as a senior researcher at the national research institute Nikhef in Amsterdam.  
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### **Welcome Address**

**Brian Paul Bales**  
*International Nuclear Information  
System, INIS-IAEA  
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Brian Paul Bales is Coordinator (Unit Head) of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. INIS is an open access repository for nuclear science and technology literature that has existed for more than 50 years and has over 132 member states and organizations. Brian's special areas of interest include digital preservation, information management, and artificial intelligence to foster knowledge sharing, innovation and progress. Previously, he worked for the archives and records section of the UN's International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) in Arusha, Tanzania, as well as an earlier 7-year assignment with the IAEA. He holds a Master's Degree in Information Technology from the University of Denver. [B.Bales@iaea.org](mailto:B.Bales@iaea.org)



### **Opening Address**

**Vyacheslav Tykhonov**  
*Data Archiving and Networked  
Services, DANS  
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Vyacheslav Tykhonov (Slava) was born in Kyiv, Ukraine. With a background in information and computer science, Slava has worked for more than 20 years in the area of software development, research and innovation for national, European and international research infrastructures. Most recently, as a Senior R&D Engineer at DANS-KNAW and FAIR data expert. Slava participated in various European projects funded by the EC. For many years, he has been an active member of the Open-Source community around the Harvard Dataverse platform. As a knowledge engineer and Semantic Web enthusiast, Slava explored and implemented new solutions and data services, from data enrichment to long-term archiving.  
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