Dr. Eugénie Birch is the Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning, School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. A New Yorker, Dr. Birch has served as a member of the New York City Planning Commission, and on the jury for the World Trade Center site design. She has also served as chair, UN-HABITAT’s World Urban Campaign (2014-2016), president, General Assembly of Partners (2015 to present) and a member of the US delegation to Habitat III. Her recent publications include Slums: How the Informal Real Estate Markets Work (2016) and “More than window dressing? Stakeholders and partnerships in the New Urban Agenda” in URBANET (2018).

EUGÉNIE BIRCH

“Urban Planning is at the Center of Today’s Global Agreements on Sustainable Development: Are we up to it?”

Current global agreements on sustainable development place planning at the center of their implementation plans. This talk will explore the many challenges of managing equitable urban growth or decline, averting human-made or natural disasters, and promoting economic prosperity. The questions for planners are: Can we do it? Are we ready to do it now? Do we need to develop additional capacity to meet the call?