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UMass Boston professor named to new UN Scientific Advisory Board

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A UMass Boston professor has been appointed to a new United Nations Scientific Advisory Board.

Maria Ivanova was one of 26 experts from the natural, social, and human sciences who were appointed to the board by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The board is designed to “strengthen the interface between science and policy, so that the latest scientific findings are reflected in our high-level policy discussions,” Ki-moon said when he [announced](#) its formation on Sept. 24.

Ivanova was appointed to a two-year term, with the possibility for a two-year extension.

“Governments have been exploring ways to improve the science-policy interface for sustainability, and the creation of the UN Scientific Advisory Board is a very positive development,” Ivanova said in a statement. “Contemporary global problems require innovative solutions that combine insights from a number of fields. The board will seek to bring such innovation from the academy into the global policy process.”

An international relations and environmental policy scholar specializing in global environmental governance, Ivanova is an assistant professor in the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance at UMass Boston.

She is also a co-director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability, based at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies.

In 1998, while studying as a graduate student at Yale University, she co-founded the Global Environmental Governance Project. Before joining UMass Boston, she taught at the College of William and Mary.

“Maria’s appointment is another example of UMass Boston’s global leadership on the most crucial issues facing our world today,” said a statement from Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “We are thrilled for Maria, and we know her brilliant, thoughtful approach to governance and sustainability issues will be greatly valued by the UN.”

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mjrochele@gmail.com. Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our [Your Campus pages](#).

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