



## Biographies



**H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council responsible for the Coordination Segment**

His Excellency Akan Rakhmetullin, is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York, assuming his duties on 26 October 2022.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Rakhmetullin was his country's First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs from April to October 2022 after having served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs since 2021. He was Ambassador to Pakistan from 2019 to 2021, Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2019 and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York from 2011 to 2015.

Mr. Rakhmetullin served as his country's Deputy Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna from 2007 to 2011; Counsellor and Deputy Director of the Department of International Humanitarian and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004 to 2007; and First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York from 2002 to 2004.

Mr. Rakhmetullin graduated with honours from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in 1999.



**H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, President of the Economic and Social Council**

Her Excellency Paula Narváez was elected the seventy-ninth President of the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2023.

Ambassador Paula Narváez is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York. Her Excellency Paula Narváez assumed her duties as

Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations on 08 June 2022.

Before this latest appointment, Ms. Narváez was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala, from February to May 2022. She also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2018, Ms. Narváez was Minister Secretary General of Government, and she served as a Presidential Adviser from 2014 to 2016. From 2012 until 2014, she was a Latin America and Caribbean Section Program Specialist at UN-Women, based in New York. Following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in Chile in May 2008, Ms. Narváez served as the delegate of then-President Michelle Bachelet to the Chaitén Volcano Emergency, from 2008 to 2009. She has also held a number of other Government positions.



Ms. Narváez earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in the United States; a master's degree in economics and regional management from the Universidad Austral de Chile; and a degree in psychology from the Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello, also in Chile.



**H.E. Mr. Earle Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), United Nations**

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 17 December 2021 the appointment of Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica as his Chef de Cabinet.

Mr. Rattray has been High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States since July 2021. Prior to this appointment, he served as Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, during which time, he was also Co-chair of the Group of Friends of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Financing; Children and the SDGs; and the Group of Friends of Decent Work.

He previously served as Jamaica's Ambassador to China (2008-2013); Director of the Bilateral Relations Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Kingston (2005 -2008); Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, D.C., (2001-2005); Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (2000-2001); and Special Adviser to the Minister for Industry and Investment (1999-2000). Before he joined the foreign service, he served as Executive Director of the Jamaica Marketing Company in London (1990-1997) and Director of Marketing and Promotions at the Jamaica National Export Corporation in Kingston (1987-1988).

Mr. Rattray holds a Master of Arts degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in the United States, a Master of Arts in International Business from the London South Bank University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College in the United States. He was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa) by West Virginia Wesleyan College.



**Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo, Political Scientist, National University of Colombia, and Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) at its 22nd session**

Mr. Mejía Montalvo belongs to the Indigenous Zenú Peoples of San Andres Sotavento. He is a Political Scientist from the National University of Colombia, with a Master's degree in Management of Development conferred by University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN). He is a lecturer and consultant for different organizations and institutions. He is also a member of the National Commission for Labor and Coordination of Education of the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia – CONTCEPI.

Mr. Mejía Montalvo is the leader of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC). From 2008 to 2012, Mr. Mejía served as ONIC Counselor of Education. Additionally, he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of



Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Technical Secretary of the Permanent Dialogue Mechanisms between the National Government and the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia. In 2014, Mr. Mejia Montalvo coordinated the conclusion of the 1953 Decree, the Indigenous component of the National Development Plan. Additionally, he supported the “Fast Track” procedure within the framework of the Final Peace Accord.



**Mr. Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva, Global Director for Poverty and Equity, World Bank Group**

Mr. Luis Felipe López-Calva has over 30 years of professional experience working with international institutions and advising national governments. He rejoined the World Bank in 2022 from the United Nations Development Programme, where he served as UN Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2018.

In his previous tenure at the World Bank, he held various positions including Practice Manager of the Poverty and Equity GP for Europe and Central Asia, Co-Director of the World Development Report 2017 on Governance and the Law, Lead Economist and Regional Poverty Advisor in the Poverty and Equity GP for Europe and Central Asia, and Lead Economist in the Poverty, Equity and Gender Unit in the PREM Directorate for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has led lending projects in policy operations for 1.1 billion USD.

His research interests focus on labor markets, poverty and inequality, institutions, and the microeconomics of development. He has published on these issues in peer-reviewed academic journals, such as The Journal of Development Economics, The Journal of Economic Inequality, World Development, Economics Letters, Oxford Economic Papers, and Oxford Development Studies, among others. He has also published widely cited books and policy reports. He holds a Master’s degree in Economics from Boston University, as well as a Master’s and a PhD in Economics from Cornell University.



**Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Ms. Diene Keita is the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Cooperation and African Integration of the Republic of Guinea, and brings to this position nearly 30 years of experience including senior leadership with the United Nations.

Ms. Keita first joined to the United Nations System in 2006 as UNDP Program Officer in New York. Subsequently, she served as UNDP Deputy Representative in Africa and the Caribbean, and Representative to the African Union in Addis Ababa.

During her tenure at UN System, Ms. Keita served as UNFPA Representative in Mauritania, Benin, DRC and Nigeria (two of UNFPA's largest programs worldwide). Concurrently, she was the UN Resident Coordinator in Mauritania, Benin and DRC. During this period, Ms. Keita led with



success large and complex public health programs, expanded strategic partnerships and mobilized critical resources to support efficient delivery at local and global level.

Throughout her career, Ms. Keita has worked extensively on women and youth empowerment, inclusive growth, demographic issues and sustainable human development, sexual and reproductive health, as well as gender-based violence issues in the context of humanitarian crises.

Dr Keita holds a doctorate in law, summa cum laude, a DEA in international economics and development law, and a DESS in international relations from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and is fluent in English, French and Italian, among other languages,



**Ms. Paola Albrito, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

Concurrent with her role as Director of the UNDRR Office, Ms. Albrito comes with extensive experience in supporting disaster resilience and sustainable development policies and instruments in Africa, Europe and Central Asia. Her broad expertise includes the development of policy guidance, cross-government strategy development, and high-level advocacy. Ms. Albrito has risen

through the ranks at UNDRR, where she previously served as the Chief of the Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Cooperation and Partnership Branch at UNDRR’s headquarters in Geneva. In that capacity, she steadily built new partnerships and renewed traditional ones, both within the UN system and with stakeholder groups. Before moving to Geneva, she led the UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Brussels, which covers 55 countries. During her tenure, she elevated the disaster risk reduction agenda to the highest political levels within the Europe region. Prior to joining UNDRR in 2004 and as part of her experience in the Djibouti Resident Coordinator’s office, she developed and coordinated policy guidance, facilitated climate adaptation and development strategies, and she acted as the focal point for humanitarian appeals, emergency, and rapid response. Her past experiences also include time with the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Staff System College.



**H.E. Ms. Noemí Espinoza Madrid, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Honduras in the People’s Republic of China, and Chair of the Commission on Population and Development**

Her Excellency Noemí Espinoza Madrid has over 25 years of experience working on political advice, advocacy, partnerships, and strategic guidance for top level government and intergovernmental organizations, mostly at the United Nations. She has been a leader in intergovernmental negotiations both as an Ambassador and a UN advisor. She is known for establishing and galvanizing partnerships with civil society and governments to advocate for human rights and for political, economic, and cultural justice. She is a sought out lecturer for academic conferences and universities. She began her diplomatic career in the Honduran Consulate in New York City in 1996. She has served in various capacities at the Permanent Mission of Honduras and

has a long career in the United Nations Secretariat, where she has been a Senior Advisor to the United



Nations President of the General Assembly and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Ambassador Espinoza Madrid holds two M.A.s. one in Economics from Vanderbilt University and a second one in Politics from The New School.



**Mr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Mr. Torero joined FAO in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he was the World Bank Group Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay since November 2016 and before the Bank Mr. Torero led the Division of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies mostly in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.

Mr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Pacific, Lima, Peru. He is a professor on leave at the University of the Pacific, Perú, and an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany, and has also published in top journals (QJE, Econometric Theory, AER-Applied Microeconomics, RSTAT, Labor Economics and many other top journals). Mr. Torero has received in 2000 the Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, won the Award for Outstanding Research on Development given by the Global Development Network, twice, in 2000 and in 2002, and received the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2014.



**Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

Mr. Abdi oversees UNICEF's global humanitarian and development programmes.

With over 30 years of experience, in international development, Mr Abdi has held several leadership positions in UNICEF - including as Country Representative in Pakistan, Ghana and Liberia; Regional Director in the Middle-East and North Africa; Comptroller and CFO; and Deputy Executive Director for Management, and Field Results.

Mr. Abdi has a PhD in Development Economics.



**Ms. Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations**

Melissa Fleming is Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the United Nations, having taken up her post in September 2019.

Ms. Fleming leads the UN's [Department of Global Communications](#), which is responsible for informing global audiences about the state of the world and engaging them to build support for the Organization's work and goals. In this role, Ms. Fleming oversees the UN's strategic communications operations, including its multilingual news and digital media services, public outreach programmes, and global campaigns.

Under her leadership, the UN Department of Global Communications engages in far-reaching efforts to address misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech. She is leading on the development of a Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms.

Previously, Ms. Fleming served 10 years at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as Head of Global Communications. Prior to that, she was the Spokesperson and Head of Media and Outreach at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She also headed the Press and Public Information team at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Ms. Fleming is a [TED speaker](#), the author of the book, [A Hope More Powerful than the Sea](#), and the host of the award-winning UN podcast, [Awake at Night](#).

Ms. Fleming holds a Master of Science in Journalism from the College of Communication, Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in German Studies from Oberlin College.



**Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Head of Internet Governance Office, PT Foundation for Science and Technology, and Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) at its 27th session**

Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves is passionate about Digital World, Emerging Technologies, RTD & Innovation Public Policies, Strategy, Diplomacy, with over 30 years of professional experience in these areas, while developing strategic and tactical thinking. Set-up and facilitated initiatives to leverage digital emerging technologies and competences to improve services and its use by a range of different stakeholders. Has been very active on the further disruption of existing social and political power structures within Internet policy evolution, while negotiating with different stakeholders, within complex governance structures. Currently, Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves is Head of the Internet Governance Office, Chair of the CSTD (UNCTAD) and President of the Advisory Council of DNS .PT. She previously was Advisor to the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education (DEC19-MAR22), while Executive Coordinator PERIN (Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network). Prior to that she was Director at the Department of Information Society, Science and Technology Foundation and responsible for the coordination of Information Society under the competences of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves held several other positions such as a former expert, invited by the European Commission, to the Horizon2020 (H2020) Advisory Groups (AG) on Future & Emerging Technologies,



International Cooperation and Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials, and former PT delegate, Future Internet Forum, and Digital ERA Forum among others. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves is also the former Head of International Affairs at Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC) and the former Vice-Chair of the EU Strategic Forum for International Cooperation on Science & Technology and Chair of its Task Force.



**Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Ms. Ligia Noronha began her role as United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office at UNEP on 1 April 2021. In this role she works in establishing and maintaining critical links with the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations, the United Nations Secretariat, other UN System organizations and entities headquartered in New York, major groups, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. Through her leadership of the New York Office, she seeks to promote effective integration of the environmental

dimension in the UN System, in the inter-agency mechanisms and in the intergovernmental processes while raising awareness of emerging environmental issues and the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

An economist with over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development, Ms. Noronha previously served as Director of UNEP's Economy Division based in Paris and Nairobi, leading UNEP's work on climate mitigation and energy transitions; on inclusive green economies, circularity and sustainable consumption and production, as well as on trade and sustainable finance; on extractives, and the nexus of environment, pollution and health. During her tenure, Ms. Noronha positioned the Economy Division as a center for integrated actions in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Prior to joining UNEP, Ms. Noronha worked as Executive Director at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi; she served as Secretary of the Asian Energy Institute and as Coordinator of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnerships (REEEP), and worked with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.



**Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Executive Director, UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**

Appointed by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 23 March 2023 as Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva of Portugal was formerly a Visiting Full Professor at the Faculty of Engineering of Oporto University and Adjunct Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po).

He was most recently Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris (2016-2022), where he successfully launched and led a restructuring of the Directorate with the objective of boosting horizontality, collaboration and co-creation. As Head of the Secretariat of the Development Assistance



Committee, he anchored the formulation of new standards on development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Before joining OECD, Mr. Moreira da Silva was the Minister for Environment, Energy and Spatial Planning of Portugal from 2013 to 2015 and Visiting Full Professor at the Lisbon University. Prior to his ministerial position, he served as Senior Environmental Finance Adviser and Programme Manager on Climate Change Innovative Finance at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2009-2012); Senior Adviser to the President of Portugal on Science and Environment (2006-2009); Secretary of State for Environment and Spatial Planning (2004-2005); Secretary of State for Science and Higher Education (2003-2004); and Member of the Portuguese Parliament and Member of the European Parliament (1999-2003), where he authored the legislation that created the European Union Green House Gas Emissions Trading Scheme.



**Ms. Sarah Hendriks, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society, and Intergovernmental Support a.i., UN-Women**

Ms. Sarah E. Hendriks was appointed UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society, and Intergovernmental Support, a.i., on 1 June 2023.

Ms. Hendriks is a visionary leader in global cooperation and development with more than 25 years in programme and policy work on gender equality. With extensive experience in leadership and strategy design, Ms. Hendriks supported the development and execution of UN Women’s new Strategic Plan 2022–2025 within six geographic regions and across the core impact areas of governance and participation; ending violence against women; economic empowerment; peace, security and resilience; and humanitarian action. Ms.

Hendriks provided overarching leadership to UN Women’s global response to COVID-19, including through the advancement of research and policy analysis to meet women’s needs. To advance results on the Sustainable Development Goals, Ms. Hendriks spearheaded the agency’s efforts as convener of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, a leading global multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality.

Prior to joining UN Women, Ms. Hendriks served as the Director, Gender Equality, Global Growth and Opportunity at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2015–2019), developing the Foundation’s first-ever strategy on gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, driving new global philanthropic investment of USD 170 million. This work was supported by Ms. Hendriks’ leadership to design and launch a global investment strategy on gender data, catalysing a USD 80 million portfolio and institutional support on gender data as core to advancing global accountability to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A national of Canada, Ms. Hendriks holds an M.A. in Adult Education and International Development from the University of Toronto and B.A. in International Justice and Human Rights from McMaster University, Canada.





**H.E. Mr. Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its 68th session**

Prior to his appointment, His Excellency Antonio Lagdameo served the Philippines' Ambassador to the United Kingdom, from 2016 to 2022 and from 2009 to 2010. From 2008 to 2009, he was Ambassador to Spain and the Principality of Andorra. From 2007 to 2008, he also served as Ambassador to Mexico, with concurrent accreditation to Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In other governmental positions, he was Chairman of the Philippine Racing Commission from 1994 to 1998. His private office and civic affiliations include Chairman of the Board, Carrije Holdings, beginning in 2000 and Vice Chairman for House of Travel Inc.

beginning in 1998, among others.

He received his Associate degree from the University of the Philippines in 1961, his Bachelor of Arts in accounting from the University of the East in the Philippines in 1964 and his graduate degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines in 1971.



**Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) at its 23rd session**

Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi is the former Special Envoy on Gender at the African Development Bank. In this role, she led a strategy to mainstream gender in the Bank's policies and operations, making the Bank a reference institution on gender equality in Africa. She was previously Director of the Democratic Governance Group of the United Nations Development Programme, with activities in more than 170 countries, supported from six regional service centres. She served in the South African Government as Minister of Public Service and Administration for two consecutive terms. As Minister, she led the development of a senior management service within the South African public service; oversaw a comprehensive review of the public service remuneration system; revitalized the "Batho Pele" strategy within the public service; and established the Government Employees Medical Scheme and Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy. She also served as Chair of the Pan African Ministers of Public Service for three consecutive terms and has worked on intergovernmental bodies globally and in Africa. While Minister for Public Service and Administration, she served as a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration. As Minister for Welfare and Population Development in the first democratic Government of South Africa, she introduced the Government's white papers on social welfare (1997) and on population policy (1998) in the Parliament, worked on the development and implementation of the Child Support Grant and chaired the Ministerial Team on Children and Youth at Risk. She served as Deputy Minister of Welfare and coordinated the country's preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.



**Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Mr. Achim Steiner first was appointed as UNDP Administrator on 19 June 2017. Following the recommendation of the Secretary-General, after consultation with Member States, the General Assembly confirmed Achim Steiner of Germany as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a further four-year term of office beginning on 17 June 2021. Mr. Steiner is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, which unites 40 entities of the UN system that work to support sustainable development. Over nearly three decades, Achim Steiner has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. He has worked tirelessly to champion sustainability, economic growth and equality for the vulnerable, and has been a vocal advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to joining UNDP, he was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. Mr. Steiner has served across the United Nations system, looking at global challenges from both a humanitarian and a development perspective. He led the United Nations Environment Programme (2006-2016), helping governments invest in clean technologies and renewable energy. He was also Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Achim Steiner previously held other notable positions including Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams. Achim Steiner has lived and worked in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the United States. He graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (MA) from Worcester College, Oxford University and holds an MA from the University of London/School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).



**Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

Mr. Gatete is currently Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations in New York. A seasoned economist, he brings to the position extensive strategic leadership expertise, coupled with international experience in the political and financial landscape of the African continent. Mr. Gatete has served in senior government positions, notably as Minister of Infrastructure (2018-2022) and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (2013-2018).

He has also served as Governor (2011-2013) and Deputy Governor (2009-2011) of the National Bank of Rwanda, Rwanda's Central Bank, and Secretary General and Secretary to the Treasury at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda (2003-2005). He was Director General for Economic and Social Affairs in the Office of the President of Rwanda (2000-2003), during which time, he served as the President's Representative to the New Partnership for Africa's Development and Coordinator of the National African Peer Review Mechanism.

Mr. Gatete began his diplomatic career in 2005 and was based in London until 2009 as Rwanda's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland. Prior to this, he served as National Economist



of the United Nations Development Programme in Kigali (1998-2000) and Economist of Agriculture and Agri-Food and of Statistics Canada, in Ottawa, Canada (1993-1997).

Mr. Gatete holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of British Columbia in Canada. He is fluent in English with working knowledge of French.



**Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

Prior to joining ESCAP, Ms. Alisjahbana was Professor of Economics at Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung, Indonesia, a position she assumed in 2005. She joined Universitas Padjadjaran as a lecturer in 1988. Since 2016, she has served as Director for the Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies at Universitas Padjadjaran and Vice Chair of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences.

She also serves on the Governing Board of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and member of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (Akademi Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia - AIP), the Forum of Statistics Community (Forum Masyarakat Statistik or Advisory Council of the Indonesian Statistics), the International Advisory Board of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies and Council Member of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). From 2009 to 2014, she was Minister of National Development Planning and the Head of the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia. She served as Co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation from 2012 to 2014. From 2009 to 2014, she was Alternate Governor of the World Bank and Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank representing the government of Indonesia. In 2016, she was a member of the High Level Independent Team of Advisors to support the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer term positioning of the United Nations Development System in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.



**Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Ms. Molcean brings to the position twenty years of experience in the public sector with extensive international cooperation and development experience, and in-depth knowledge and expertise across the entire ECE membership. She is currently the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organization and other international organizations in Geneva.

She served as State Secretary and Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Bilateral Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (2017-2020), Deputy Director General for European Integration and Head of the Division for Economic and Sector Cooperation with the European Union (2012-2017) and Head of the Division for Economic Cooperation and Sectorial Coordination at the General Directorate for European Integration (2004-2008). A career diplomat, she has also served as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Sweden (2008-2011).



Ms. Molcean holds a LL.M. Degree in Law from the Faculty of International Law at Moldova State University and completed the Multilateral Diplomacy Program from the Graduate Institute of Geneva, Switzerland. She is fluent in Romanian, English and Russian, with advanced knowledge of French.



**Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

A public policy and economic development enthusiast, Mr. Salazar brings to the position deep development knowledge and a life-long interest and passion for the analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of policies to promote economic, social and political development.

Mr. Salazar served as Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO) from 2015-2018. He joined the ILO in 2005 as Executive Director of its Employment Sector and served as

Assistant Director General for Policy from 2013 to 2015.

Prior to joining the ILO, he served from 1998 to 2005 as Director of the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States. Mr. Salazar was Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica from 1997 to 1998, Executive President of the Costa Rican Development Corporation from 1998-1990 and Chief Economist and then Executive Director of a Central American private sector think tank (FEDEPRICAP) from 1990-1996. In the academic sphere, he is the author of numerous articles and books on development, trade, economic integration, competitiveness and employment. He has taught at the University of Costa Rica, the National University of Heredia, Cambridge University and Georgetown University.

He holds a master's degree in Development Economics and a doctorate in Economics from Cambridge University and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Costa Rica. He speaks Spanish, English and some French.



**Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Ms. Dashti is a leading Kuwaiti economist and long-time champion of women's rights, gender equality and democratic reform. She served as member of the Supreme Planning Council in Kuwait. From 2012 to 2014, she was Minister for Planning and Development and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. Ms. Dashti played a pivotal role in advocating for a decree to allow Kuwaiti women to vote and run for parliamentary elections. In May 2009, she and three others became the first women to

be elected to the Kuwait parliament.

She has held key positions in research and development institutions, such as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and has worked for major national and international financial and development institutions, such as the National Bank of Kuwait and the World Bank. She also managed contracts for the Kuwaiti Emergency and Reconstruction Program during the invasion-to-post liberation period. Ms. Dashti holds a doctorate degree in population dynamics from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, a master's



degree in economics and finance from California State University in Sacramento, and a Bachelor of Science in agriculture economics from California State University in Chico. She speaks Arabic and English fluently.



**H.E. Mr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its 18<sup>th</sup> session**

H.E. Mr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga is the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations and currently the Chair of the UN Forum on Forests at its 18<sup>th</sup> session. Before his latest appointment, Mr. Maniratanga was Chief of State Protocol and Head of his country's Diplomatic and Protocol Office, a post he took up in October 2020. Before that he served as Chief of Protocol for the Presidency of Burundi, beginning in October 2010.

Mr. Maniratanga diplomatic experience includes service as Chargé d'affaires at Burundi's Embassy in India between 2009 and 2010 and in other capacities at the country's embassies in Canada (2007-2009) and South Africa (2006-2007). Between 2004 and 2005, he was a Counsellor in the Department of International Organizations, with a portfolio covering relations with the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mr. Maniratanga was in charge of relations with Belgium, France and Italy from 2000 until 2002.



**H.E. Ivo Šrámek, Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session**

During his career, His Excellency Ivo Šrámek has served in various capacities, among them:

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016-2018); Deputy Minister, European Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2015-2016); Director General of the European Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2014); Ambassador to Belgium (2011-2014); Political and General Director of the Multilateral Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009-2010); Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee (PSC of the European Union (EU), presiding over the PSC during the Czech Presidency of the EU in 2009 (2004-2009); Director of the United Nations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2003-2004); Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1999-2003); Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations (1995-1999); Delegate of the Czech Republic to the Fifth Committee of the United Nations (1993-1995); and Director of the Investment Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990-1993).

Mr. Šrámek joined the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Czechoslovakia in 1987. His first post was in Lusaka, Zambia. Mr. Šrámek is married and has two children.



**H.E. Mr. Philbert Johnson, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its 67<sup>th</sup> session**

His Excellency Philbert Abaka Johnson, presented his credentials today to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), Ghada Waly on 18 December 2020.

He has 25 years of experience in the field of diplomacy, and served in various capacities in Ghana Missions abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. He served as Deputy Head of Mission of the High Commission of Ghana in Ottawa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations, New York, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Ghana in Brussels, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Ghana in Moscow and Counsellor, Embassy of Ghana in Berne.

Ambassador Johnson is interested in issues that require analytical and progressive thinking on sustainable development, Diaspora Engagement, International Trade Law and Economics as well as Conflict Resolution. He speaks English and French.



**Ms. Joselyne Kwishaka, Second Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations and Vice-Chair-designate, Commission on Social Development (CSocD) at its 62<sup>nd</sup> session**

Ms. Kwishaka currently holds the position of Second Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Burundi to the United Nations, a role she has been in since 2021. Prior to this, from 2015 to 2021, she served as a MOFA Counselor at the Department in Charge of Relations with Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Prior to her diplomatic assignments, Ms. Kwishaka worked as a Teacher at the Communal Lycee of Mabayi-Cibitoke-Burundi from 2012 to 2014.

Ms. Kwishaka has actively participated in seminars and training programs abroad, including the Training Program for Officials of MOFA (NZELTO 14) organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand from February to July 2020. In 2016, she also participated in the Regional Integration on Conflict Resolution seminar by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, as well as in the Young Diplomats program in Beijing and Guangxi Province, organized by Renmin University of China and supervised by the Ministry of Trade of China.

Ms. Kwishaka holds a Bachelor in Secondary Education from the Institute for Applied Pedagogy, Aggregation at the University of Burundi. She is fluent in French, English, Kirundi, and Kiswahili.





**Ms. Gabriella Vukovich, President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and Chair, Statistical Committee at its 54<sup>th</sup> session**

Dr. Gabriella Vukovich is an honorary professor and 'Doctor honoris causa' of the University of Miskolc and has been the President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office since 2010. After obtaining her degree in law, she worked as a demographer at the Research Institute of Demography of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, later at the UN in Geneva and New York. At the Hungarian Central Statistical Office she became Head of Department responsible for population census, then, between 1998 and 2004 deputy-president for social statistics. In 2012 she was elected chair of the UN Statistical Commission. At present she is Vice Chair of the UN Statistical Commission as well as member of the UN Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. She is also co-chair of the UN Statistical Commission's High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring.



**Mr. Duane Pfund, International Program Coordinator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the United States Department of Transportation and Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS) for 2023-2024**

Mr. Duane Pfund serves as International Program Coordinator for Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the United States Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS). Mr. Pfund leads the United States Department of Transportation in the development of hazardous materials transport regulations that align the U.S. regulations with international standards and serves as Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS) for 2023-2024. He is the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel member nominated by the United States.



**Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, Central Council Member and Chair, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Chair, Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting & Reporting (ISAR) at its 40<sup>th</sup> session**

Mr. Sanjeev Singhal serves as the Chairman of the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board of India and as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) at its 39<sup>th</sup> session. He has worked on a wide spectrum of finance functions including accounting, reporting, compliances, taxation, and treasury with renowned companies. As a government nominee at NACAS, he has worked towards the development of



quality Accounting Standards and implementation guides while ensuring that the industry interest is duly protected. Mr. Singhal graduated from Delhi University with a PhD in International Finance.



**Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez, Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its 13th session**

Ms. Paloma Merodio Gómez is Vice-President of Subsystem of Geographical Information, Environment, Territorial and Urban Planning at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico. Moreover, she is Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its 11<sup>th</sup> session. Before her appointment as Co-Chair, Ms. Merodio Gómez was the President of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and the Director General of Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Programs in the secretary of social development in Mexico.



**Mr. Pierre Jaillard, President of the National Toponymy of France and Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) at its 2023 session**

Mr. Pierre Jaillard is the President of the National Toponymy of France and Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its 2023 session. He is in charge of terminology and French language in the Ministry of Economy and Finance of France. Mr. Jaillard studied at the ENSAE Paris and at the Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris.



**Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, The New School and Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy at its 25th session**

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr is a Professor of International Affairs at The New School. Her teaching and research have focused on human rights and development, global health, and global goal setting and governance by indicators. From 1995 to 2004, she was lead author and director of the UNDP Human Development Reports. Her recent publications include: Millennium Development Goals: Ideas, Interests and Influence (Routledge 2017); Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights (with T. Lawson-Remer and S. Randolph, Oxford 2015), winner of the American Political Science Association's 2016 Best Book in Human Rights Scholarship and the 2019 Grawemeyer Prize for Ideas to Improve the World Order.

Fukuda-Parr contributes actively to international policy and research processes. Most recent appointments include the UN Committee on Development Policy as Vice Chair, the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Access to Medicines and Innovation, and Boards of Knowledge Ecology International and International Association for Feminist Economics. She directs the Independent Panel on Global





Governance for Health at the University of Oslo, and also serves as Distinguished Fellow at the JICA Research Institute, Tokyo.



**Mr. Mathew Olusanya Gbonjubola, Tax Policy and Advisory Department, Federal Inland Revenue Service of Nigeria and Co-Chair Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (UNTC) at its 27th session**

Mr. Mathew Olusanya Gbonjubola is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria. He obtained the Higher National Diploma in Accountancy from The Polytechnic, Ibadan (1987) and Masters of Business Administration from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (1999).

His professional experience includes: Audit Trainee – Adisa Durojaiye & Co (1983 – 1984), Head of Accounts – Lagos Airport Hotel, Lagos (1989 – 1990), Senior Accountant – Evans Brothers Publishers, Ibadan (1990 – 1993), Operations Manager – Regent Capital Services, Lagos (1993 – 1994) and Managing Partner – Mat Olu & Associates (1994 – 1997).

Mr Gbonjubola joined the FIRS in 1997 as Principal Inspector of Taxes. He served in several positions in tax audit, tax investigation, tax policy, transfer pricing and international tax functions. He rose to the rank of Director and was appointed to lead the Special Tax Operations Group in 2021.

In the course of his tax career, he had extensive exposure in the international tax arena representing Nigeria on many international tax bodies. He is Co-Chair of the UN's Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (2021 – Date); Co-Vice Chair of the G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS 2016 – Date); Nigeria's delegate to G24 Working Group on Taxation (2020 – Date); Co-Chair of OECD Working Party 6 (on Transfer Pricing) (2018 – 2022); Chair of the Cross- Border Taxation (CBT) Committee of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) (2016 – 2020). Mr Gbonjubola was listed among the World's Top 50 Tax Persons for the year 2022 by International Tax Review (ITR).



**Ms. Laura-Maria Craciunean-Tatu, Associate Professor at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania and Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) at its 74th session**

Ms. Crăciunean-Tatu currently holds the position of Associate professor of public international law, international humanitarian law and diplomatic law within the Faculty of Law at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania. She has been a member of Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) since 2017 and currently serves as Chair of the CESCR at its 74th session.

Her research interests lie primarily in cultural rights, cultural diversity, and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. She has been a member of the European Society of International Law since 2008 and is a member of the editorial board of the Romanian Journal of International Law.

From 2014 to 2017, she served as an independent expert on the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. She has also served as an independent expert elected in respect of Romania on the Council



of Europe Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) from 2016 to 2020 and has continued in this capacity from 2022 onward.



**Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology**

Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as his Envoy on Technology in June 2022 and joined the Secretary-General's senior leadership team as Under-Secretary-General in mid-July 2022.

A thought leader on digital technology, Mr. Gill has a deep knowledge of digital technologies coupled with a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Before taking up the position as Envoy on Technology, Mr. Gill was the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

In 2018/19, Mr. Gill was Executive Director and co-lead of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Between 2016 and 2018, he was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Mr. Gill holds a PhD in international learning from King's College London, a Bachelor of Technology in electronics and electrical communications from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and an Advanced Diploma in French history and language from Geneva University. He is fluent in English, French, Hindi and Punjabi. He is married to Ashma, an educationist, and has a son and a daughter.



**Ms. Silvia Montoya, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Co-Chair of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN) for 2023 Spring meeting**

Dr. Silvia Montoya is the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), which is the statistical branch of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she has taken a leadership role within the international education community by helping to build consensus around the standards, methodologies and indicators needed to measure progress towards Education 2030. This work entails a complete review of existing sources of information, as well as an evaluation of statistical capacity-building services needed to help Member States produce and use the resulting data. She has also launched the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning and serves as the Co-Chair of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4—Education 2030 Indicators.

Dr. Montoya was professor and researcher at the Catholic University of Argentina. She holds a Master's and PhD in Policy Analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School, and a Master's in Public Administration



from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is the author of many publications on education, vocational training and labour market issues.



**Mr. Tomas Lamanuskas, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

In this key elected role, Mr. Lamanuskas assists the ITU Secretary-General with managing the organization, addressing the needs of ITU's unique, global public-private membership, and pursuing key strategic objectives to promote inclusive digital transformation in line with sustainable development. Mr Lamanuskas aims to forge impact-driven partnerships to advance global connectivity, help the information and communication technology industry cut emissions and address the climate crisis, and implement results-oriented management, with maximum transparency and accountability, to ready ITU for a dynamic future.

As Deputy Secretary-General, he fosters close collaboration across varied radiocommunication, standardization, and development activities, reinforcing the collective role of ITU's five elected officials as a single, highly effective team. Prior to his election by ITU Member States in September 2022, Mr Lamanuskas held senior executive positions with national regulatory authorities in Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, and as a senior government advisor on telecommunications issues in the Pacific region. He previously led corporate strategy at ITU and public policy for multinational technology and communications company VEON. In more than 20 years as a strategist focused on telecommunications and digital technologies, he has guided multicultural, multidisciplinary teams through challenging times and transformative changes. In addition, he has contributed to reports and studies by the ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, the World Economic Forum, and other international organizations and research groups.

Mr Lamanuskas holds a Sloan Master's Degree in Leadership and Strategy from the London Business School (UK), a Master's in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School (US), a Master's in Telecommunications Regulation and Policy from the University of the West Indies (Trinidad and Tobago), and a Master of Laws from Vilnius University (Lithuania). He began his career as a computer science teacher at Vilnius Lyceum in his native Lithuania.



**Ms. Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

Ms. Saulo took office as the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in January 2024, the first female and first South American to head the WMO.

Prior to this, she served as the Director of the National Meteorological Service of Argentina since 2014 and was the First Vice-President of the WMO. She was elected to the WMO Executive Council in June 2015. She has been a member of the WMO World Weather Research Programme

(WWRP) Scientific Steering Committee since 2011 and has served on various WMO panels related to her



field of knowledge. She is full professor at the University of Buenos Aires and research scientist at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research. As the Director of the Argentinean National Meteorological Service, she has given rise to interinstitutional and interdisciplinary effort and dedication to contribute to the commitments made by the country with regards to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework. Under her direction, the Argentinean National Meteorological Service has been a venue for various capacity development activities for Meteorological and Hydrological Services of developing countries, with a specific focus on training in accordance with the country's role of Regional Training Centre and the inclusion and integration of the younger generations of scientists, leading to the creation of the WMO YESS (Young Earth System Scientists) Office.

Ms. Saulo launched her academic career as a teaching assistant in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), where she earned an undergraduate degree in 1987 and a PhD in 1996. Her peers, students and graduates, elected her as Director of the Department of Atmosphere and Ocean Sciences at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences of the UBA for two consecutive periods (2009-2013). Her extensive teaching experience is in the areas of numerical weather prediction, atmosphere dynamics and thermodynamics, mesoscale meteorology, cloud dynamics and cloud microphysics. She has authored and co-authored 46 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and book chapters. Furthermore, she has supervised five doctoral theses as well as many students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, acting as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on research projects funded by international and national agencies.



**Mr. Robert Powell, Director of New York Office, International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

Robert Powell is the International Monetary Fund's Special Representative to the United Nations. His extensive experience at the IMF includes policy development, aid effectiveness, country operations, debt relief activities, and capacity building. He has been chief of the strategy and evaluation division of the Institute for Capacity Development (2014-2019); led the concessional financing division of the Finance Department (2009-14); helped develop the joint IMF and World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative; and served as mission chief for Liberia and The Gambia. Earlier in his career he worked at the UK Treasury including as Paris Club representative, the Institute of International Finance, and at the World Bank. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in econometrics and economics from the London School of Economics as well as a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of London.



**Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN-DESA**

Mr. Li Junhua was appointed as the next Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in July 2022. Mr. Li brings to the position perspectives and visions on fostering multilateral economic and social cooperation, with a commitment to engage with all parties to further implement the 2030 Agenda including dedication to serve member states. He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and



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Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS etc.

Prior to this, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. Before, he was Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (2013-2019). Mr. Li began his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1985. Since then, he has served in various capacities, including as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Myanmar (2010-2012), Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (2008-2010), Minister Counselor (Political), Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations (2003-2008), Division Director and Counselor in charge of UN General Assembly and Security Council Affairs (2001-2003), Second and First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nation (1997-2001). Third and Second Secretary, the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (1992-1997) and Assistant to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of China to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (1986-1992).