

BIOGRAPHIES

2025 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind

6 & 7 February 2025, ECOSOC Chamber



H.E. Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council responsible for the Coordination Segment

Anatolio Ndong Mba was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations on January 7, 2010.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ndong Mba was a consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), serving as the agency's representative in Djibouti from November 2008 to February 2009. Between 2004 and 2008, he served as FAO representative in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe, resident in Luanda. He also served as Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator from March 2007 to July 2008, when he retired from the agency. From 2001 to 2004, Ndong Mba was Deputy Regional Representative of FAO for Africa and Representative in Ghana. He having served as Representative in Guinea-Bissau between 1997 and 2001.

Ndong Mba's extensive ministerial experience included terms as Minister of State for Fisheries and Forestry (1996-1997); Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Equatorial Guinea Governor at the International Monetary Fund (1994-1996); Minister of State for Planning and International Cooperation and Equatorial Guinea Governor to the World Bank (1992-1994); and Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (1989-1992).

He was Secretary-General in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (1986-1989); Chief of Staff of the Planning, Research and Monitoring Project in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (1984-1986); Secretary-General in the same Ministry (1982-1984); and Director General of Livestock (1981-1982).

Ndong Mba holds a Bachelor of Science in agro-livestock from Zagazig University in Egypt, as well as diplomas in animal production and rural credit.

He was born in Equatorial Guinea on July 3, 1946, is married and the father of a large family.



H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council

Bob Rae is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York. He has served in this post since August 4, 2020. Since assuming this role he has been active in all aspects of the work of the UN, culminating in his election to the Presidency of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2024-25, the second Canadian to assume this role, and joins Lester Pearson (President of the General Assembly 1952-53) and George Davidson (ECOSOC 1958-59) as Canadians elected in

their personal capacity to preside over UN Charter bodies.

Mr. Rae served as Premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995, and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011 to 2013. He was elected to federal and provincial parliaments eleven times between 1978 and 2013. He has been honoured by the alumni of both bodies for his distinguished service.

Mr. Rae received his Honours B.A. in Modern History from the University of Toronto, an M.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College in Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1977. He was a Lecturer in the Faculty of Business (1976-77) and also served as assistant to the Canadian General Counsel of the United Steelworkers from 1975 to 1977. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in February in 1980 and was named a Queen's Counsel in 1984.

Mr. Rae has worked with three law firms, Sack Charney Goldblatt and Mitchell (1977 to 1982), Goodmans LLP (1996 to 2007), and Olthuis Kler Townshend LLP (2014 to 2020), each drawing on his skills as a scholar, an advocate, a mentor and a mediator. Among other notable assignments, Mr. Rae led the restructuring of the Canadian Red Cross, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and chaired the board of the Royal Conservatory of Music. He also wrote "Lessons to be Learned" on the Air India bombing, and "Ontario a Leader in Learning" - a study of the Ontario higher education system. He was also named to the Security and Intelligence Review Committee by then Prime Minister Chrétien. He served as the Chief Negotiator for the nine First Nations that are members of the Matawa Tribal Council in Northern Ontario between 2013 and 2018.

Mr. Rae's return to Parliament for the constituency of Toronto Centre in 2008 led to his appointment as Foreign Affairs spokesman for his party, and to his election as interim Leader in 2011. From 1996 to 1999 and between 2013 and 2020, he taught law, politics, public policy at the University of Toronto, and was a partner and senior counsel to the law firm OKT LLP, specializing in indigenous law and constitutional issues. Mr. Rae is a Fellow of the Forum of Federations (an organization he co-founded in the 1990's), Massey College, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

In October 2017, Mr. Rae was appointed as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar. In this role, he engaged in diplomatic efforts to address the crisis in the country's Rakhine State and wrote the report "Tell Them We're Human" in 2018. In March 2020, he was named by Prime Minister Trudeau to be Canada's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues. This led to his report "A Global Pandemic Requires a Global Response", which was made public shortly before his appointment as Ambassador to the UN.

Mr. Rae is a Privy Councillor, a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, and has numerous awards and honorary degrees from institutions in Canada and around the world. In addition to several government reports, he is the author of six books, “From Protest to Power”, “The Three Questions”, “Exporting Democracy”, “Canada In The Balance”, “What’s Happened to Politics”, and “Reflections on a public life (The Symons Lecture)”.



Mr. Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 7 October 2022 the appointment of Guy Ryder of the United Kingdom as Under-Secretary-General for Policy in his Executive Office.

Mr. Ryder was most recently Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva after serving two successive terms since October 2012. He first joined the ILO in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers’ Activities and from 1999, served as Director of the Office of the Director-General.

Mr. Ryder started his professional career in 1981 as an assistant at the International Department of the Trades Union Congress in London. From 1985, he held the position of Secretary of the Industry Trade Section of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET) in Geneva. In 1988, he became Assistant Director and – from 1993 - Director of the Geneva office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). In 2002, he was appointed General Secretary of the ICFTU and was elected as the first General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) when it was created in 2006. He returned to the ILO in 2010 as Executive Director, responsible for international labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Mr. Ryder studied Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool. He speaks English, French and Spanish.



Ms. Minh-Thu Pham, Co-founder of Project Starling, Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Lecturer at the School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Minh-Thu Pham is a nonresident scholar in the Global Order and Institutions Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Her primary areas of interest are multilateral cooperation and summit diplomacy, international organizations, sustainable development, and global governance and democracy. She also runs Project Starling, a group that works on renewing institutions, and teaches at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and Bard Globalization and International Affairs program. Minh-Thu was an advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, where she helped to steer the UN through a period of deep crisis after the Iraq War and played a key role in the 2005 World Summit.

As executive director of global policy at the UN Foundation, she started and ran a global effort to help the UN create and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and undertake institutional reforms. Minh-Thu has led dozens of track 1.5 and 2 dialogues with ambassadors and civil society actors that have resulted in political breakthroughs. She built a global network of stakeholders to shape summit negotiations, which included think tanks and civil society actors from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Her work helped to open up UN decision-making processes to a broader constituency. More recently, Minh-Thu has advised efforts to strengthen democracy globally and in the United States, and led an effort to mobilize immigrant voters and tackle misinformation.

Minh-Thu has been featured in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Politico*, *NBC Nightly News*, the *Tavis Smiley Show*, and Cheddar TV among others. She serves on the boards of several nonprofits and is a fellow of the Truman National Security Project, a member of the Leadership Now Project, and was a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations (2007-2012). She came to the U.S. as a refugee from Vietnam and currently lives in New York City.



Mr. CLAVER GATETE - Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Claver Gatete is the tenth Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, appointed in October 2023.

Prior to this, he served as Ambassador of Rwanda to the United Nations. He has also served as Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, and Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda. He also served as Ambassador of Rwanda to United Kingdom, Ireland, and Iceland.

Mr. Gatete is a seasoned diplomat and economist with acclaimed recognition on Africa's development issues. He was awarded Finance Minister of the Year in 2015 and 2016 at the African Bankers Awards and by Global Capital respectively. He has held various roles on a number of Presidential initiatives, boards and advisory councils.

He holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in agricultural economics from the University of British Columbia.



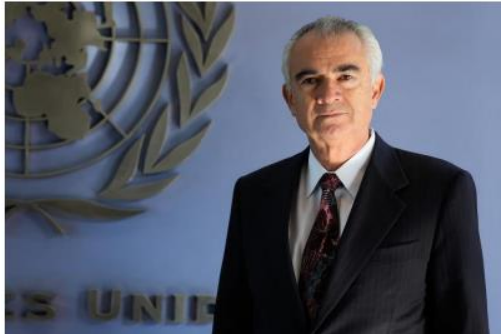
Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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)

Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs was appointed Executive Secretary of ECLAC by the United Nations’ Secretary-General on September 1, 2022. He took office as from October 3, 2022. Previously he 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 1988-1990 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 also the author of numerous journal articles on development, trade, productive transformation, competitiveness and employment policies, and has written and edited several books. 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.



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 - AIPI), 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. 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. Krzysztof Szczerski, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC and Chair of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) on its 63rd session

Krzysztof Szczerski was born in 1973 in Kraków. In 1997, he graduated from the Jagiellonian University with a master's degree in political science, and in 2001, he obtained his PhD at this university's Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations. He completed his habilitation (postdoctoral degree) in 2010, based on a dissertation entitled Dynamics of the European System, for which he received the Prime Minister's Award. In 2018, he was awarded the title of Professor of Social

Sciences.

Since 2000, he has been an affiliated scholar of the Jagiellonian University, and has twice been Deputy Director of its Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations. He lectured at the National School of Public Administration in 2008–2009 and later in Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2013, he has been an associate professor at the Jagiellonian University. Currently he is also a member of the Board of the Polish Institute of International Affairs and the Institute for Central Europe.

In the years 2007–2008, he was Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then at the Office of the Committee for European Integration. He has been a member of the Civil Service Council to the Prime Minister (2009–2010) and a Deputy to the Polish Sejm (2011–2015). In January 2015, he became the

representative of the Polish Parliament at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. From 2015, he was Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, from 2017, he served as Chief of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Poland and later as Head of the International Policy Bureau in the Chancellery.

In 2021, he assumed the office of Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations in New York.



H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on its 69th session

Dr. Abdulaziz Alwasil took up his post as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2022 after serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva since November 2016.

Prior to his appointment at Geneva, Dr. Alwasil held various positions in the public and private sectors. Since joining the Diplomatic Service, he has concerned himself primarily with multilateral and human rights affairs in which he has gained extensive experience. He served as Deputy Head of Mission at Saudi Arabia's Embassy in London for more than three years. During his diplomatic career, he was also assigned to the Saudi Arabian Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Australia.

At the beginning of his career, Dr. Alwasil worked as a college lecturer. He has had several articles on social and political issues published in Arabic and English.

Dr. Alwasil holds a PhD in International Relations, a Master's Degree in Political Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Arabic language and literature.



H.E. Ambassador Shambhu S. KUMARAN, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on its 68th session

During his career, Mr. Kumaran, who is also an Ambassador to Austria as well as The Holy See and Montenegro, has served in various capacities, among them:

Ambassador to the Philippines, Palau and Micronesia (2020-2024); Ambassador to Morocco (2019-2020); Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence (2016-2019); Director (East Asia/China), Joint Secretary (Establishment) and Joint Secretary (Eurasia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2012-2016); Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa (2009-2012); Political Counsellor in Kathmandu (2007-2009); Officer on Special Duty (Press Relations), External Publicity Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2004-2007); Deputy Secretary (West Europe Division), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002-2004); and diplomatic assignments in Germany (1997-2002).

Mr. Kumaran holds a Master of Arts in international studies and a Master of Philosophy in diplomatic studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi as well as a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Kerala University.

Mr. Kumaran speaks English, Malayalam, Hindi, French and German.



H.E. Mr. José Antonio ZABALGOITIA, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on its 34th session

Born in Mexico City, he joined Mexico's Foreign Service in 1988, and became Ambassador in 2009.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from El Colegio de México, a Master's degree in that same field from the London School of Economics and Political Science; and another Master on National Security from Mexico's War College. He also did graduate courses on Political Communication and on Peace Research.

Ambassador Zabalgoitia has built a diverse, yet well-balanced diplomatic career. His major fields of expertise are: Latin America, Press and Communication, and Mexico - United States relations. He also combines bilateral and multilateral experience, where he has had important responsibilities regarding Mexico's participation in regional and global fora and organizations.

He served as Consul General of Mexico in Miami, FL, from 2013 to 2017, when he was designated deputy ambassador to the United States of America. He supported negotiations that allowed to update NAFTA into USMCA in November 2018. He then represented Mexico in the Netherlands from 2019 to 2023. He was also Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the international legal organizations established in The Hague, among them the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

He has served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Foreign Relations, where he was responsible for coordinating the Secretary's participation in Cabinet meetings and for preparing hearings before Congress. In that position, he conducted the strategic planning process for the foreign policy chapter in the 2006 - 2012 National Development Plan.

He was Mexico's National Coordinator for 28 regional political and economic fora. Among others, he oversaw Mexico's participation at the Organization of American States and coordinated the design and implementation of the Pacific Alliance on behalf of Mexico. Within the Alliance, he led the working groups dealing with communications and migration issues.

He coordinated the Rio Group during Mexico's tenure as its Pro Tempore Secretariat, in a process that culminated with the creation of CELAC. Overall, he prepared Mexico's participation at the highest level in 18 regional and hemispheric summits. He also served as Director General for Latin American Affairs, where he conducted bilateral relations with the region.

He was appointed Ambassador to Bolivia and served as Press Counselor at the Embassy in Spain and Minister for Public Affairs at the Embassy in the United States. Previously, was Director of Bilateral Relations with the U.S. and for Canadian Affairs during the negotiation of NAFTA.

Since December, 2023, he serves as Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna and other international organizations based in this city.

He has published articles on Mexican and Latin American foreign policy and lectured at Mexico's main academic institutions. He was awarded the S.H. Bailey Prize in International Relations in 1987.



H.E. Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations in Geneva and Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) on its 28th session

His Excellency Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah is the Ambassador & Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the UN Office at Geneva, World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other offices in Geneva. He currently Chairs the Africa Group of Ambassadors at Geneva (April 2021-June 2021) and is the Vice Chair for UNCTAD's Commission on Science and Technology Development's 25th session and a member of the Advisory Board of the UNCTAD TDB Advisory Body (June 2021-July 2022). Ambassador Prof. Kah is also one of three Ambassadors designated as Friends of the Chair of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) General Assembly.

Prior to his appointment in Geneva, Professor Kah served as the Founding Chairman of Zenith Bank, The Gambia, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Africa Consulting & Trading Group (ACT), Dakar, Senegal and as the first Gambian-born third Vice Chancellor of The University of The Gambia (UTG) from 2009- 2015 and recently appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Prior to becoming UTG's Vice Chancellor/Rector in 2009, Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah spent 4 years in Nigeria as the Founding Dean of the School of Information Technology and Communications at the American University of Nigeria (AUN) where he doubled for a year as Interim Dean of the School of Business & Entrepreneurship. Professor Kah was appointed as Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost (DVC) and Professor of Information Technology & Computing at the American University of Nigeria, Yola, Adamawa State (2017-2020). He also served as Vice Rector for Technology & Innovation; Professor and Founding Dean of the School of Information Technology & Engineering at ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan (2015-2017). He served at the Board of Trustees and Governing councils of the American University of Nigeria and the African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, Nigeria.

Professor Kah has held teaching and leadership positions in the USA, Africa, the Middle East (Gulf countries) and Eastern Europe (Caucuses). A regular contributor to the "Africa Module" in the Advanced Leadership Program (ALP) at Cambridge Judge Business School, he was appointed as an honorary Fellow of the Judge Business School and the Digital Innovation Centre, University of Cambridge (2016-2017). Professor Kah is passionate about advancing and strengthening computing, engineering, science, and leading strategy &

innovation in organizations. To complement that he also provides thought leadership in information technologies & computing education in higher education whilst also serving as a member of international panels such as the Malabo Montpellier Panel, the Euro Science Forum 2018, Africa Europe Foundation, amongst others.

Completing his BSc, MSc. and Ph.D. at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey, one of the top engineering and technology management universities in the USA, Professor Kah also holds a Master of Science in Finance (Financial Engineering) from George Washington University, Washington, DC and a Postgraduate Diploma (Dip SI) in Strategy and Innovation from the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK.

Professor Kah has completed several Executive Education Programs: University of Cambridge, Judge Business School: the Advanced Leadership (ALP) Program; Advanced Leadership Re-Union & Follow-Up Program in Singapore and Beyond Innovation: Business Models for Transformation & Competitive Advantage; Harvard University, Harvard Kennedy School: Transforming Leadership for 21st Century Africa, and The AGA KHAN University, Graduate School of Media & Communication: The Voice of Leadership; Inspiration, Influence & Impact. In Corporate Governance, he has completed the highly reputable International Directors Program (IDP) as an Internationally Certified Director from INSEAD, through the INSEAD Singapore and Fontainebleau, France, Campus. Professor Kah is also a member of the Institute of Directors (IoD), London, UK.



Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and Chair of the Statistical Commission on its 55th session

Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich was appointed Director-General of the Federal Statistical Office by the Federal Council on 1st October 2013. He studied Business Administration in Switzerland, the USA (University of Virginia, Darden Business School) and Australia, where he obtained his DBA at the University of Southern Queensland with a thesis on Stakeholder management and communication. He is also Professor in strategic management and research methods at the University of Applied Sciences in Business Administration Zurich.

Between 1992 and 2010 Mr. Ulrich worked in private enterprise, holding various management positions in market and opinion research. From May 2011 to September 2013 he was Director of the LUSTAT statistical office in Lucerne and from March 2017 to March 2018 Vice Chair of the UN Statistical Commission. He has been Vice-Chair of the UN Statistical Commission again since 2022.



Ms. Catharina Lasseur, Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of Human Rights and Development Department of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations and Chair of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on its 58th session

ECOSOC AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UN

Ms. Katja Lasseur was appointed Head of Human Rights, Development, Humanitarian Aid and Administrative and Budgetary Affairs division at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN in 2023. In this role she also serves as ECOSOC Ambassador.

She started her career at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. After several years at the Africa Department, she was seconded to the EU Council Secretariat in Brussels and from 2005-2009 was the spokesperson for the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Paris.

Upon her return to The Hague in 2009, she worked on EU External Affairs and sanctions policy at the EU Directorate of the Foreign Ministry. Thereafter she returned to the Africa Department where she was appointed Netherlands Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.

From July 2018 to July 2023, Ms. Katja Lasseur served as Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana.



Mr. Javad Momeni, First Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on its 20th session

Mr. Javad Momeni is a career Iranian diplomat who serves on the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN, specializing in sustainable development, environmental issues, and international economic and financial affairs. He earned a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in international organization and diplomacy. His work focuses on addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development, complemented by his studies in environmental management. Currently, he is a PhD candidate specializing in climate change policy and environmental management.





Mr. Rabi Olowo, chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) on its 41st session

Dr. Rabi Olowo is a Corporate Reporting and Public Finance Leader adept with developing and implementing Corporate Governance across private and public institutions. He is a Professor of Practice in Forensic Accounting, Finance & Public Policy, a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Management Accountant, Certified Internal Controls Auditor, Certified in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) & International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Chartered Tax Practitioner, Certified

Fraud Examiner; with over 15 years post qualification experience across private, public and development sectors. He graduated top of his class with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting in 2006. He proceeded to earn an MBA from the University of Lagos, and MSC Accounting & Finance from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK.

Dr. Olowo was the 22nd Honourable Commissioner for Finance in Lagos State (2019-2023), where he successfully managed the fiscal policy strategy of the 5th largest economy in Africa which resulted in upgrade of Lagos State to “AAA (nga) “Triple A - in the National Long Term (NLT) by international ratings agency FITCH, which demonstrates improved and sustained commitment to excellent Financial Reporting, Accountability and Transparency.

Before entering mainstream public sector, Dr. Olowo has held senior positions across Industry sub-sectors and multiple geographies including top-local and multinational organizations: Zenith Bank Plc; British Pharmaceutical Giant' GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Nigeria, Dutch Global Dairy Leader' FrieslandCampina Nigeria; Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (Texas, USA); Club of Global Development Finance Organizations etc. He is an alumnus of both Harvard Kennedy School of Government, USA, and Blavatnik School of Government at the Oxford University, UK.

Currently, Dr. Rabi Olowo is the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria. Within one year of appointment, Dr. Rabi Olowo has repositioned the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria to a more responsive, fair and firm regulatory body which has earned global recognition. His drive and commitment led to effective execution of Accounting Development Tool (ADT), launch of Roadmap for the adoption of Sustainability Reporting in Nigeria amongst other accomplishments.

He is a Youth Advocate mentoring and inspiring millions of youths worldwide.



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 Senior Official responsible for terminology and the French language at the French Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. In this role, he also serves as the President of the French National Toponymic Committee. He is also the chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), supporting the promotion of the standardization of geographical names among and within Member States by facilitating coordination, providing technical assistance, passing and implementing mandates, and fostering the upholding linguistic equality and cultural heritage.



Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, General Administrator of the National Geographic Institute of Belgium and Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) on its 14th session

Ingrid Vanden Berghe is the Administrator General of the National Geographic Institute of Belgium. Previously, she served as an adviser to several Belgium Cabinet Ministries. She was the Director of the Christian Democrat parties' Centre for Political, Economic, and Social Studies (CEPESS). She started her career as a scientist at the Leuven University, Belgium, entering public service in 1989 as an agricultural engineer for the Department of Land Use Development in the Flemish Region.



Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University and member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

José Antonio Ocampo is Co-Director of the [Economic and Political Development Concentration](#) in the School of International and Public Affairs, Member of the Committee on Global Thought and of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University. He is also a member and was the Chair of the Committee for Development Policy, an expert committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and was Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT) in 2015-2022, and is a current member.

Prior to his appointment and on leave of absence for public service during his tenure at Columbia University, Ocampo has served in a number of positions in the United Nations and the Government of Colombia, most notably as United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Minister of Finance and Public Credit on two occasions; Chairman and member of the Board of Banco del República (Central Bank of Colombia); Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; Director of the National Planning Department (Minister of Planning); and Executive Director of Fedesarrollo.

Among several commissions of which he has participated and support to international organizations, he was a Member of the Advisory Council of the Colombian Truth Commission in 2018-2022; Member of the High-Level United Nations Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda in 2020-2021; Goodwill Ambassador for Social Protection of the International Labor Organization in 2015-2017; Chair of the Commission on Rural Development of Colombia in 2014-2015; Chair of the panel created by the IMF Board to review the activities of the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office in 2012-2013; Co-director of the UNDP/OAS Project on "Agenda for a Citizens' Democracy in Latin America" in 2008-2010; and Member of the Commission of Experts of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System in 2009.

Ocampo has published extensively on macroeconomic theory and policy, international financial issues, economic and social development, international trade, and Colombian and Latin American economic history.

Ocampo received his BA in economics and sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 1972 and his PhD in economics from Yale University in 1976. He served as Professor of Economics at Universidad de los Andes, the National University of Colombia, Universidad Javeriana, and Visiting Fellow at Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Rice, São Paulo and Yale. He has received a number of personal honors and distinctions, including the 2012 Jaime Vicens Vives Prize of the Spanish Association of Economic History for the best book on Spanish or Latin American economic history, the 2008 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought, and the 1988 "Alejandro Angel Escobar" National Science Award of Colombia.



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.



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.



Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Founder of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) and Expert in Indigenous Peoples' traditional ecological knowledge and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) on its 23rd session

Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an indigenous woman from Mbororo pastoralist community of Chad; She is a Coordinator of the Peul Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad (AFPAT) "Association des Femmes Peules et peuples Autochtones du Tchad.

Hindou is also co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and a member of the Executive committee of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), with a background in indigenous peoples' rights and environment protection through the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification) with multiple responsibilities. Hindou is a recent National geographic 2017 Emerging Explorers



H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the CSW revitalization process

The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, **Ambassador Fergal Mythen**, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 26 August 2022.

Since taking up duty in New York, he represented Ireland on the Security Council for the final phase of our two-year term as an elected member, which concluded on 31 December 2022; in addition, together with Qatar, he co-facilitated the drafting of the

High Level Political Declaration on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which was adopted by consensus by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2023.

Prior to his current appointment, Fergal spent considerable periods of his career working for the Government of Ireland in support of the Northern Ireland peace process and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement – working for the International Fund for Ireland (1990-92), on Justice & Security issues (1999-2003 and 2005-07), and on Northern Ireland political affairs (2007-09).

Most recently, as Director-General of the *Ireland, UK and Americas Division* of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2022, he led the Departmental team working on Northern Ireland peace process issues, Irish-British relations (including the impact of Brexit), and Irish-US relations.

Between 2013 and 2017, Fergal was Director-General of the Department's Corporate Services Division, with responsibility for human resources, finance, ICT, property management, and corporate governance and compliance issues.

He has twice served in the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels, covering two Irish EU Council Presidencies, firstly as Middle East / North Africa Attaché from 2003 to 2005, and as Coreper II Counsellor from 2009 to 2013.

Earlier in his career, in 1996-97, Fergal was seconded to the European Community Monitoring Mission in the former Yugoslavia, based in Sarajevo, BiH.

He was Director of the Department's Human Rights Unit from 1997 to 1999.

Fergal also served as Consular Officer in the Embassy of Ireland to Italy, Rome, from 1992 to 1996.

Born in 1968, Fergal studied History and English in Trinity College Dublin and Business Studies in University College Dublin.



H.E. Ms. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the CSW revitalization process

Ms. Mokhawa is the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mokhawa was Permanent Secretary of her country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a position that she assumed in April 2021, having previously served as Deputy Permanent Secretary for Bilateral Diplomacy from April 2020 to April 2021.

She was Head of Department, Political and Administrative Studies, at the University of Botswana from April 2019 to April 2020.

She holds a PhD in international relations from the University of Saint Andrews in the United Kingdom, as well as a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in social sciences, political science and public administration, both from the University of Botswana.

She was born on 9 June 1977 in Moshupa, Botswana.



Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UNDESA

Mr. Navid Hanif is the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He is also the UN sous Sherpa to the G20 finance and main tracks.

He joined UNDESA in 2001. He was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He served as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch and later Director in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support and the Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office. He was the first head of the DESA Strategic Planning Unit established in 2010.

He was Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Vice-Chair of the UN High Level Committee on Programming (HLCP) and Co-Coordinator of the UN team on repositioning of the UN Development System that led to major reforms in 2018.

He has contributed several articles on financing and investing in the SDGs in various journals and reports.

He holds MIA, International Political Economy, Columbia University (NY), & M.A., English Literature, Government College University (Lahore).



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

Mr. Maximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He joined the Organization 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. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Achim Steiner became UNDP Administrator on 19 June 2017. 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. Eduard Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Affairs of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Matoko holds a degree in economics from La Sapienza University in Rome, and in political science and international relations from the University Cesare Alfieri in Florence and the Diplomatic and the Strategic Study Centre in Paris and is currently the assistant director-general of the Priority Africa and External Relations Sector of UNESCO. In this role, he is responsible for the political and strategic coordination of UNESCO actions in Africa.

Mr. Matoko has been director of the UNESCO Liaison Office with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as well as the UNESCO representative in Ethiopia. He was also the UNESCO director of the multi-country offices in Quito (Ecuador) and in Bamako (Mali). Mr. Matoko has extensive experience in conflict prevention in Africa, having been the head of the education sector for peace, human rights and democracy and manager of peace culture programmes at UNESCO in Paris.

He is the author of a study called *Les fondements endogènes d'une culture de la paix en Afrique. Mécanismes traditionnels de prévention et résolution des conflits en Afrique* (*The Endogenous Foundations of a Culture of Peace in Africa. Traditional Mechanisms for Preventing and Resolving Conflicts in Africa*, UNESCO publication, 1999) and several reports on the culture of peace in Africa, Asia and Latin America, regions where he undertook many missions.

Winner of the International Literature Prize (Category: political essay) awarded by ADEL (Association of French Authors) for the publication *L'Afrique par les Africains. Utopie ou révolution* (*Africa by Africans. Utopia or Revolution*, Ed. L'Harmattan, Paris, 1996"), translated into Italian: *L'Africa Degli Africani, Utopia o Rivoluzione*, Casa Edit. Mazziana, Verona, 2002).



Mr. Pablo Fernández Marmissolle-Daguerre, Assistant Secretary-General for Partnerships at United Cities and Local Governments (Local Authorities Major Group)

Pablo Fernández Marmissolle is the Assistant Secretary-General for Partnerships at United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), where he leads global alliances with over 20 international organizations. With a background in urban design and international relations, Pablo has held leadership positions in government and international organizations, including serving as Head of International Affairs at Mexico's Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial, and Urban Development. He coordinated Mexico's delegation at Habitat III and was sherpa of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel for the evaluation of Habitat III and the post-New Urban Agenda process. He has been a technical advisor on housing, urban development, and regional planning and served as Secretary of the Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. He is also a board member of the World Proximities Observatory (15-Minute City). Based in Barcelona, he continues to shape global urban policy through strategic partnerships and advocacy.



H.E. Mr. Tofiq Musayev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and host of COP 29

Between 2019 and his most recent appointment, Mr. Musayev served as his country's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and from 2016 to 2019, as the Permanent Mission's Counsellor. He led the Regional Security Department in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2016.

His diplomatic career includes serving as Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations from 2008 to 2014, including during his country's membership in the Security Council. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he further served as Deputy Director and Director of the Foreign Policy Planning and Strategic Studies Department from 2004 to 2008, and Deputy Director of the International Law and Treaties Department and Head of the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division from 2001 to 2004.

He also held various positions in the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva from 1997 to 2001, and in the Treaties and Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1997.

Mr. Musayev holds a bachelor's degree in law from the Baku State University, and a master's degree (LLM) in international human rights law from the University of Essex.



H.E. Mr. Norberto Moretti, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil and host of COP 30

Ambassador Norberto Moretti holds a degree in History from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and diplomacy from the Brazilian diplomatic academy (Rio-Branco Institute). He joined the foreign service in 1990.

He served as assistant to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1994), head of the Trade Remedies and Safeguards Division (2002), Political Coordinator in the UN Security Council (2010-11), head of the International Peace and Security Division (2011), advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013) and director of the departments of Financial Affairs and Services (2015) and Northern and Eastern South America (2018) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2019-2020, he served as Secretary for Foreign Trade and Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he was also Brazil's Sherpa for G-20 and BRICS. He was the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal from 2021 to 2023. He is currently the Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations in New York.

His foreign postings include the embassies of Brazil in Washington (1995-1999), Buenos Aires (1999-2004), Ottawa (2004-2007), the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN (2007-2011) and the Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the ICAO (2021-2023). He was a member of the UN Secretary General Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group (2012-2013).

Born in Rio de Janeiro, on September 28th, 1965, Ambassador Moretti is married and has two children.



Mr. Werner Obermeyer, Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Office at the United Nations in New York

Werner Obermeyer is Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) office at UN Headquarters in New York. His portfolio includes the promotion of health in the General Assembly and other inter-governmental bodies and processes, the WHO's relations with the UN system entities based in New York, as well as non-governmental organizations that focus on public health. He was responsible for the negotiations which culminated in adoption of the 2011, 2014 and 2018 Political Declarations on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable

Diseases, the 2016 and 2024 Political Declarations on Anti-Microbial Resistance, the 2018 and 2023 Political Declarations on Tuberculosis, the 2019 and 2023 Political Declarations on Universal Health Coverage, the 2022 Political Declaration on Road Safety, and the 2023 Political Declaration on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response. He has steered many resolutions through the General Assembly, including the first ever decade on healthy ageing, and the decade of action on nutrition.

He oversees initiatives related to the sustainable development goals, global health and foreign policy, universal health coverage, health security and social protection, road safety, malaria, NCDs, climate change and health, disabilities, narcotics and drugs, mental health and tobacco control. Prior to joining the World Health Organization he was the representative of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) in New York, responsible for environmental governance, health determinants and sustainable development. Before joining the United Nations he served in the South African Foreign Service, holding various senior diplomatic assignments.



Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in New York

Ilze Brands Kehris assumed her functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 14 January 2020, heading the UN Human Rights Office in New York.

Ms. Brands Kehris combines extensive expertise in political science, conflict prevention and human rights, with a specialisation in minority rights, and long-standing experience in intergovernmental fora and with civil society organisations.

From 2017 to 2019, Ms. Brands Kehris served as independent Expert Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the treaty body monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Between 2016 and 2019, she served as a senior research fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund University, in Sweden.

She has previously held several leadership positions in national and regional level human rights organizations, including as Member and Chairperson of the Management Board of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency.

Ms. Brands Kehris also held the positions as Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, first Vice-President and Member of the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and Member of the Management Board and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board of the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. She also served as Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Mills College in California, USA, a Master of Arts in Political Science (International Relations) from Columbia University in New York, USA, where she also pursued Ph.D. studies.

Ms. Brands Kehris, who is Latvian, speaks English, Russian, French, Latvian and Swedish.



Ms. Ana María Oviedo, Lead Economist, Poverty and Equity Department, World Bank Group

Ana Maria Oviedo leads research, technical and policy dialogue on poverty, inequality, labor, and gender with governments in Eastern Europe. She has also advised governments throughout the Latin America Region. She was part of the World Development Report 2014, *Risk and Opportunity*, where she led the chapter on household risk management. She has conducted research on a broad range of topics, including skills, education quality, employment, informality,

labor and product market regulation, and productivity. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland.



Ms. Ophelia Kemigisha, Program Officer at Outright International (LGBTI Stakeholder Group)

Ophelia Kemigisha (she/her) is a UN Program Officer based in New York. At Outright, she works with movements to ensure that sexual and gender minorities are duly accounted for in United Nations processes and mechanisms. Ophelia previously worked with SRHR Alliance Uganda, the

Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA), and Chapter Four Uganda. She serves on the Boards of Her Internet and Synergía Initiative for Human Rights, providing governance oversight and support. Ophelia loves reading, curating memes on social media, and writing poems and songs.

Ophelia holds a Master of Laws from Georgetown University Law Center, where she also completed the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) fellowship, and a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University.



Ms. Mahlet Zeleke Redi, Focal Point of Global Youth Caucus on Decent Work and Sustainable Economies Major Group for Children and Youth

Mahlet Zeleke Redi is the Executive Director of Women Economic Empowerment Africa. With a degree in Economics and International Trade, she delves into global development through business consultancy and leadership certificates. Her role extends beyond borders as a UN HLPF youth delegate, a World Bank 2023 Youth Summit Delegate, and an AUDYI representative on the Policy Forum of Development in Brussels, Belgium.

She is a passionate advocate for policies that uplift vulnerable groups, with a particular focus on women. Bridging continents, she cultivates collaborations for a shared future aligned with the SDGs and the advancement of Agenda 2063. Committed to breaking barriers for women's equal economic participation, she leads the *icare_power* period campaign under @WEEAfrica and co-founded Birge Dignity Bucket with Marakie Tesfaye. This initiative addresses period poverty, impacting 50,000 female students and 80,000 women while contributing to sustainability.

In her consultancy roles, she works with local agribusinesses to enhance food security and collaborates with reusable pad manufacturers to ensure quality, affordability, and sustainability for women. As the Executive Director at WEEAfrica, she accelerates the realization of SDGs and Agenda 2063, breathing life into a vision of a more equitable, empowered future. Each step she takes contributes to a continent where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.



Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for the United Nations

ILO Special Representative to the UN and Director of the ILO Office for the United Nations since July 2023. Prior to that, she was the ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa, based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon joined the ILO in 1995 and has undertaken different responsibilities in the field and Geneva, including Deputy Regional Director for Africa, Chief of the ILO Programming Unit for Africa and Deputy Director of the ILO Office in Pretoria.

As a member of the ILO senior management team, with a special focus on Africa, Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon played an important role in the development and implementation of regional strategies to deliver high quality decent work results that advance social justice as well as foster opportunities for regional cooperation; particularly with the African Union and African Development Bank. She served, along with the African Development Bank President, Dr Akin Adesina, on the UNECA supported High-level Panel on Migration, which was chaired by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

A committed facilitator of strategic collaboration between UN agencies and regional institutions like the African Union, Ms Samuel-Olonjuwon effectively led the AU/ILO/IOM/ECA team that developed the Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa (JLMP), which was adopted by African Heads of States in 2015. This joint programme has led to a strengthened the strategic collaboration between the AU, ILO, IOM and other partners to improve the effective governance of labour migration in the continent, and from Africa to other regions such as Europe and the Middle East.

Among many other pioneering initiatives, she strategically led the ILO/ITU/AU Joint Programme on Boosting Decent Jobs and Enhancing Skills for Youth in Africa's Digital Economy. The vision of the programme is to enable more African young people to access decent work in the digital economy. With a holistic approach that addresses the labour market supply side, the labour market demand side as well as labour market intermediation, the programme provides the comprehensive support that enable the initial nine target African countries to maximize youth decent work opportunities in the digital economy.

Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon mobilized a great multidisciplinary team to spearhead the development of the African Regional Social Protection Strategy 2021-2025. As one of her legacies, the strategy aims to double social protection coverage from 17.4% to 40% by 2025. It provides an innovative approach to support constituents, towards initiatives that effectively expand social protection coverage to informal economy workers, rural economy workers, migrant workers, and other groups. It has also involved support to constituents to increase the fiscal space to raise the social protection expenditure necessary to extend coverage.

Ms Samuel-Olonjuwon holds a BSc in Sociology (1980) and a Masters' Degree in Industrial and Labour Relations from the University of Ibadan in 1982. With about 40 years' experience in the world of work, she had worked as Assistant Director in the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), she was a Senior Researcher and Trainer at the National Institute for Labour Studies, and Lecturer at the Ahmadu Bello University. During her stint in the academia, she was appointed to the Board of the International Sociological Association (Research Committee on Women in Society) from 1986 to 1990.

Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon's exemplary leadership has been recognized beyond the UN, she was named as one of the 100 Most Influential African Women in 2019 by Avance Media.



Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as of 10 December 2021, has had various leadership positions from an early stage in his career.

Between 1980 and 1989, he was a teacher at vocational schools and a civil servant at the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. From 1989 to 1994, he served as a Member of the European Parliament, during which time he was a member of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Between 1994 and 2021, he served as a Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, and as a member of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development.

In 2005, he was appointed Deputy Minister at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, in charge of international relations, development projects and world food affairs.

In 2013, he was appointed Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, a position he held until 2021.

Gerd Müller has many years of experience in the fields of multilateral cooperation, sustainability and innovative agriculture. Key focus areas of his work are the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Beijing Declaration on Gender Equality. Furthermore, he is a strong advocate of fair trade, and initiated legislation in Germany and the European Union on social and environmental standards along supply chains.



Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda (Zimbabwe) assumed her duties as UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination, and Programme Results on 6 February 2024.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda brings more than 35 years of experience in the fields of development, human rights, peace and security, high-level advocacy, civil society engagement, and policy influencing and development, with a focus on women's empowerment, gender equality, and women's and children's rights. Her personal experience growing up in resource-poor and war-ravaged communities drives her passion to ensure that all women and girls, and their families, fully enjoy their rights.

Before her current position, she served as Founder and Chief Executive of Rozaria Memorial Trust, an organization founded in memory of her mother, which has supported girls and women in Zimbabwean rural communities since 2007 through innovative initiatives that promote education, health, and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda was appointed the first African Union (AU) Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage (2014-2022). In this capacity, she engaged with Heads of State and other high-level officials, civil society, and youth, to advocate for progressive and rights-based continental positions on women's and girls' issues, paving the way for the development of the AU Convention on Violence against Women and Girls in 2023.

Prior to that, she was General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) between 2007 and 2016, Regional Director in the East and Horn of Africa for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) between 2001 and 2007, and Human Rights Officer in Liberia and National Child Rights Adviser in Zimbabwe for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) between 1998 and 2001. Previously, she served as the Interim Coordinator for the Zimbabwean Women Lawyers Association and as Assistant Law Officer at the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Constitutional Affairs of Zimbabwe.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) by the University of Massachusetts, United States, and holds a Master in Laws from the University of South Africa, a Post Graduate Certificate in Conflict Transformation from Uppsala University in Sweden, and a Bachelor of Laws, Honors Degree, from the University of Zimbabwe.



Ms. Veronica Brown, Women's Environment and Development Organization (Women's Major Group)

Veronica Brown is a Panamanian and Peruvian feminist, immigrant, and human rights advocate working at the intersections of gender justice, inclusion and sustainable development. Veronica works to support the fierce feminists of the Women's Major Group as we advocate to expand civic space and ensure that the voices and needs of girls, women, and gender diverse people are prioritized in the SDGs. Over the last several years she has worked to advance gender equality and inclusion at various

organizations including Women Deliver, the ACTION Global Health Secretariat, Equimundo, among others. She approaches her work with an anti-racist, feminist, and rights-based lens. Veronica holds a B.A. in Global Affairs and Islamic Studies from George Mason University, a Masters in Humanitarian Action from Ruhr University in Germany and the University of Deusto in Spain, and an Advanced Masters in Development Evaluation and Management from the University of Antwerp. She is also an anti-oppression trainer and passionate about decolonizing ways of working. She loves chai, capybaras, and is weak for reality TV.



H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Permanent Representative of Nepal and Chair of the Least Developed Countries

His Excellency Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa assumed the office of the Permanent Representative (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary) of Nepal to the United Nations since 01 September 2023. He presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Mr. Antinio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations on 01 September 2023.

Mr. Thapa has served in a number of positions during a long spell of his diplomatic career spanning more than three decades after he joined the Foreign Service of Nepal in 1990. He was the Ambassador of Nepal to the BENELUX (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg) as well as the Head of Mission to the European Union from 2016 to 2020. During his stint in Brussels, he also served as the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), and Center for the Promotion of Products from Developing Countries (CBI). Before taking charge of the current position, Ambassador Thapa was the Head of the North-East Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prior, he served as the Director General of the Department of Passport from September 2014 to October 2016. In 2014, he briefly headed the South Asia Division of the Ministry. Mr. Thapa was Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of Nepal, Canberra, from September 2009 to January 2014. He served as Protocol and Liaison Officer at the office of the first President of Nepal from July 2008 to September 2009. He was Desk Officer in the Multilateral Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry from April to July 2008. He served as First Secretary in the Embassy of Nepal in Riyadh from 2004 to 2008, also serving as Charge d’Affaires a.i. in 2004-2005. From 2002 to 2004, Mr Thapa worked as Desk Officer in the North-East Asia and South-East Asia Division of the Ministry. Prior to that, he was posted to the Embassy of Beijing in 1998 as Second Secretary, where he served for four years. He served in different divisions and sections at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal after joining the Foreign Service of Nepal in 1990. In his long diplomatic career, Mr. Thapa became a part of high-level Nepali delegations to different countries as well as attended dozens of bilateral, regional and multilateral meetings, conferences and negotiations. Mr. Thapa holds a master’s degree in diplomacy from Lancaster University, UK; and master’s in public administration from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He has also completed half a dozen professional training programs at home and abroad. They include programs from the University of Tasmania, Australia; the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Nepal; the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, South Korea; Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, USA. He is married to Mrs. Nanu Thapa and has two sons. He was born in 1970 in Tanahun district of Nepal.



H.E. Mr. Brian Christopher Manley Wallace, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the Declaration on Future Generations

Ambassador Brian Wallace assumed duties as the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations in September 2021.

He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies, a Certificate of Legal Education from Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica and a

Master of Laws in Public International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London.

Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Wallace had an extensive career in national and international legal and administrative systems. He began his legal career in Jamaica's Attorney General's Chambers in 1990, followed by ten years in private practice, business and political service. He then returned to the area of legal practice which he felt offered the best opportunity to use his skills and talents for the greater good – International Law. His service at the international level includes tenures at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where he prosecuted those accused of responsibility for the Rwandan genocide, and various roles within the internal justice system at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Among his illustrious pursuits, and a true reflection of his personal and professional commitment to the people of Jamaica, Ambassador Wallace has served as a Senator in the Jamaican Parliament, making notable contributions in parliamentary proceedings on various Bills and topical issues, including on the Charter of Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other matters of national concern. He continues to serve his beloved country and the interests of humanity in his current role as Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations



Mr. Quintin Chou-Lambert, Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Technology

Quintin Chou-Lambert is Senior Programme Officer in the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies and has over 12 years' experience in international public service and commercial strategy. Before taking up his current position, Mr. Chou-Lambert served across the UN on cyber security, technology policy, data analytics, evaluation, and executive direction, including in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General. Prior to joining the UN, he worked as

a strategy consultant in the private sector. Mr. Chou-Lambert holds an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies London, and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford.



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

In Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi, Africa has a strong and passionate leader working towards the continent’s social and economic transformation. As the former Special Envoy on Gender/ Vice-President at the African Development Bank, she led a strategy to mainstream gender in the Bank’s policies and operations, making the Bank a reference institution on gender equality and inclusion in Africa. She has championed women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion. She has worked in inter-governmental structures, interacted with political leaders, business leaders

and civil society, and have been involved in complex negotiations across different issues and sectors. Her career is characterised by commitment to development that is more inclusive and economic growth that is more sustainable.

Geraldine was previously Director of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Democratic Governance Group (DGP), based at Head Quarters(HQ) in New York, working across six Regional Service Centres (RSCs) with more than one hundred countries.

She served in the South African Government as Minister of Public Service and Administration, for two consecutive terms. She worked on a number of Strategic Policy initiatives which included the development of a Senior Management Service within the South African Public Service; a comprehensive review of the Public Service Remuneration system; revitalized the “Batho Pele” strategy within the Public Service; established GEMS (Government Employment Medical Scheme); set up PALAMA (Public Service Leadership and Management Academy); served as Chair of the Pan African Ministers of Public Service for three consecutive terms; worked on inter-governmental bodies globally and in Africa; whilst Minister for Public Service and Administration served in the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The State Information Technology Agency (SITA) was within the Public Service Portfolio and reported to the Minister.

As Minister for Welfare and Population Development in South Africa’s first democratic government highlights included developing and tabling the policy on Social Welfare (1997) before parliament; white paper on Population Policy (1998); 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 preparation, of South Africa, for the Beijing World Conference (1995); served as Deputy Leader of the South African Delegation to the World Conference; represented South Africa at the WSSD in Copenhagen Denmark.

In addition, she served as member of the South African Parliament for three consecutive parliaments (1994 through September 2008 when she resigned from parliament.) Geraldine served a parliamentarian and a member of the Constituent Assembly; she served on various subcommittees of the Constituent Assembly.



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

Tomas Lamanuskas is Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, elected at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference of 2022, and taking up duties as of January 2023.

His 25 years of experience spans across sectors of telecoms and digital policy, regulation and strategy, stemming from executive level positions in agencies, companies, and organizations across Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and the Pacific region.

As Deputy Secretary-General of ITU, Tomas focuses on the financial sustainability and operational excellence of the organization. He also works to raise the digital industry's ambition in fighting the climate crisis through the Green Digital Action initiative and promotes investments into the digital infrastructure as well as digital resilience through the Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative and other efforts. Additionally, Tomas contributes to the global efforts to harness the opportunities and mitigate challenges of new technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence, including through his role as a co-chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on AI. He is also playing a key role in ensuring ITU's support to other UN-wide development and governance efforts, including through the World Summit of the Information Society process and membership at the Operational Steering Committee of the UN Joint SDG Fund.

Tomas holds Master's Degrees in Public Administration (Harvard), Leadership and Strategy (London Business School), Telecommunications Regulation and Policy (The University of the West Indies) and Law (Vilnius University)



Mr. Fernand Bale, Director of the Geographic and Digital Information Center of the National Office of Technical Studies and Development (BNETD) of Côte d'Ivoire and Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) on its 14th session

Mr. Fernand Bale is a senior geospatial specialist with over 20 years of experience. In the last ten years, he has worked alongside governments, political leaders and decision-makers to exploit geospatial technology and address sustainable development challenges in developing African countries.

Currently, Mr. Bale is the Director of the Côte d'Ivoire Geographic and Digital Information Center (CIGN) at BNETD. He is also involved in various international organisations as the Co-chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), Co-chair of the United Nations Sub Committee on Geodesy, a Member of International GNSS Services (IGS) Governing Board, and a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the UN-Global Geodesy Center of Excellence (Bonn).

Mr. Bale is an engineering graduate from ENSG-Paris and holds a Master's degree in Spatial Data Analysis from Sorbonne University in 2002. In 2021, he achieved the Program for Management Development (PMD) at IESE Business School, Barcelona.



Ms. Julia Glidden, Head of Public Affairs, IPSOS

Julia is Group President of Ipsos Public Affairs U.S. An accomplished executive who builds and scales global enterprises, Julia leads at the nexus of public policy, technology, and procurement. Over the course of her career, she has gained a worldwide reputation in GovTech as well as a portfolio of trusted relationships across countries, NGOs, and civil services in the US, UK, Europe, and Asia.

Throughout her career, Julia has demonstrated an exceptional ability to initiate change and drive business results. She has played a key role in revitalizing go-to-market strategies at some of the world's leading brands, including Microsoft and IBM. She is also an in-demand writer, speaker and consultant, and has acted as an expert advisor to organizations including the United Nations, the European Commission, and the World Economic Forum.

Julia's willingness to step out of the top floor bubble marks her leadership. At Microsoft, she set a new standard for cross-functional collaboration as she optimized existing investment engines, customer segmentation, solution blueprints, and compensation models. The renewed and revitalized WWPS business unit brought in major sole-source contracts, won coveted placements on national framework contracts, and earned breakthrough deals at the country level.

Julia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History, summa cum laude, from Columbia College, and MPhil and DPhil degrees in International Relations from New College, University of Oxford in Oxford, UK.

H.E. Mr. Chola Milambo, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the Global Digital Compact



The Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations, Chola Milambo, is an international public servant with nearly three decades of experience in macroeconomic management and development at both the global and national levels.

Before his latest appointment, Mr. Milambo worked at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., holding various positions, including Senior Adviser to the World Bank Group Executive Director for Africa Group 1 Constituency, which covers the interests of 22 member countries. In that role, he was lead adviser for Botswana, Ethiopia and Zambia.

Mr. Milambo also served as Technical Adviser to the Executive Director on the policies and financing framework for the World Bank Group's International Development Association, where he was instrumental in strengthening relations with Zambia, including in the country's selection as the host of the Association's eighteenth replenishment in November 2018.

At the national level, Mr. Milambo worked at the Bank of Zambia, the Zambia Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance, under the Department of Taxes.

A Fulbright Scholar, Mr. Milambo holds a doctorate in economics from Howard University in Washington, D.C., a Master of Arts in economics from the University of Nairobi in Kenya, and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Zambia.



H.E. Ms. Elina Kalkku, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations and co-Chair of the STI Forum

Prior to the current position, Ms. Kalkku served as Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, responsible for development policy and relations with African and Middle Eastern countries. Prior to that, she served as Director-General of the Department for Americas and Asia in 2005-2015. In 2000-2005, she served as Director of the Security Policy unit at the Political Department of the Ministry.

Ms. Kalkku joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1983. She has previously served abroad at the Finnish Mission to the UN in New York (1987-1991) and the Finnish Mission to Nato in Brussels as well as at the Finnish Embassies in Madrid and Brussels.

She has worked with issues related to security policy and crisis management, the EU and the UN affairs, transatlantic relations, Asian and Middle Eastern affairs, Finland's relations with African countries as well as trade promotion and development policy and development cooperation. She was member of the Finnish delegation to the UN Security Council in 1989-1990. She also served as a Diplomatic Advisor to the Foreign Minister of Finland at the Ministry in the 1990's.

Ms. Kalkku holds Masters (1982) and Licenciante of Law (1999) degrees from the University of Helsinki, specializing in international law. She was born in Helsinki 1959, and she is married with two grown-up children.



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 Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of London.



Mr. Mathew Gbonjubola, Co-Chairperson, United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (UNCTC)

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). 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. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Rebeca Grynspan, of Costa Rica, became UNCTAD's eighth Secretary-General on 13 September 2021 and is the first woman to lead the organization.

Prior to her UNCTAD appointment, she was the Ibero-American secretary-general from 2014 to 2021, also the first woman to head the organization. During her mandate, she has coordinated the 22-member Iberoamerican Conference and led four key summits of Heads of State and Government.

In 2010 she was appointed Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and prior to that was UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Grynspan served as Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She was also Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs, and Deputy Minister of Finance. In 2021 she was named Special International Advisor to the newly created Economic and Social Council of Argentina and invited to join as member of the G20 High-Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

In addition to her experience as a lecturer and advisor to several international organizations, she has been actively involved in key United Nations initiatives, such as the Millennium Project's Task Force on Poverty and Economic Development and the High-level Panel on Financing for Development. In 2014 and 2015, she was recognized as one of the 50 leading intellectuals of Latin America. And she was recognized as one of the 100 most powerful women in Central America by Forbes magazine.

Ms Grynspan holds a degree in Economics by the University of Costa Rica and a MSc in Economics by the University of Sussex. She has been awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the University of Salamanca, the University of Extremadura and the European University of Madrid in recognition of her outstanding professional achievements.



Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 9 June 2022 the appointment of Rabab Fatima of Bangladesh as High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.

The Secretary-General wishes to extend his appreciation and gratitude to Heidi Schroderus-Fox of Finland, who is the Deputy to the High Representative and Director of UN-OHRLS, for her dedication and commitment as Acting High Representative.

Ms. Fatima brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in national and international Civil Service, encompassing bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, policy-making, advocacy, programme planning and implementation.

She is the current Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York. Prior to this position, she was the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan (2016-2019), Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh (2015-2016), Regional Representative for South Asia (2007-2011) and Regional Adviser for South and Southwest Asia and Regional Adviser for Climate Change and Migration (2012-2015) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva and Head of Human Rights at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London (2006-2007).

Ms. Fatima joined her country's Diplomatic Service in 1989 and served in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Bangladesh Missions in New York, Kolkata, Geneva and Beijing.

She holds a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from the University of Canberra, Australia.



H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of African States for the month of February 2025

H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek became the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nation on September 16, 2021.

Before his latest appointment, Ambassador Abdelkhalek served as Permanent Representative to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) between October 2018 and August 2021.

Having been appointed Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in July 2016, he was in charge of African affairs until October 2018. From July 2011 to July 2016, he was posted to the United Nations in New York as Deputy Permanent Representative, after having served as a counsellor in the Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs since June 2009.

Ambassador Abdelkhalek was also dispatched to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as Deputy Permanent Representative, serving between July 2005 and June 2009, and was Third Secretary in the Permanent Mission to the League of Arab States from October 1998 until January 2000.

He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Cairo University in 1988.



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

Ms. Diene Keita, who recently served as Minister for Cooperation and African Integration with the Republic of Guinea, brings to the position nearly 30 years of experience within the United Nations System. She started her United Nations career in 1990 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York as Programme Officer, and from this point held various successful programmatic leadership positions at country level, serving as UNDP Deputy Representative and Acting Representative for several years.

Ms. Keita joined UNFPA in 2006 as Representative in Mauritania, and thereafter served in representative positions in Benin, as well as in DRC and Nigeria (two of UNFPA's largest programmes globally) before joining the Guinean Government as a Cabinet Minister in 2018. During this time, Ms. Keita successfully led large and complex public health programmes, expanded strategic partnerships and mobilized critical resources to support delivery. While serving with UNFPA, Ms. Keita also acted as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mauritania, Benin and DRC where she oversaw the United Nations system at the national level. All throughout her career, Ms. Keita has worked extensively on the empowerment of women and youth, inclusive growth, demographic issues, sustainable human development, addressing sexual and reproductive health, as well as gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

Ms. Keita, who is fluent in French and Italian amongst other languages, and holds a doctorate in Law, a DEA in International Economics and Development Law and a DESS in International Relations from the University of Paris 1 Sorbonne. Ms. Keita considers the rights and choices of the 10 year old girl as central to her work and hopes to do everything possible to ensure that the adolescent girl is given all the opportunities and support required to enable her to fulfil her potential.



Ms. Kitty van der Heijden, Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Kitty van der Heijden assumed the position of Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships, of UNICEF on 18 August 2023.

Ms. van der Heijden's career in international development spans over 35 years – working for government, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities. Prior to her current role, she was the Director General for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, responsible for strategy development and global operations in the Dutch development portfolio.

As Vice President and Director for Europe & Africa for the World Resources Institute, she established WRI's presence in Africa and Europe and was responsible for fundraising and strategic engagement with local actors on challenges such as climate, water and food. This built on her previous experience as the Netherlands' Ambassador for Sustainable Development and Director for Climate, Energy, Environment and Water.

Ms. van der Heijden's field experience includes Mexico, India, Ethiopia and Viet Nam. In the latter country, she worked for the United Nations as the Head of the Office of the Resident Coordinator and Senior Advisor on UN reform, responsible for making the UN operations at country level more effective, efficient and coherent. Ms. van der Heijden has served as a non-executive member of the board at Unilever Netherlands (2014-2019) and with the Global Commission on Business and SDGS (2016-2017) and the Global 'Planetary Security' Conference (2015-2018). She was awarded the Dutch National 'Green Ribbon' of Honor in 2013.

A national of the Netherlands, Ms. van der Heijden has a Master of Economics from Erasmus University, Rotterdam.



Ms. Kelly Clements, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

Kelly T. Clements joined UNHCR as Deputy High Commissioner on 6 July 2015. Clements has been closely involved with refugee and displacement issues throughout her three decade career.

Before joining UNHCR, Clements was a member of the Senior Executive Service, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) where she was responsible for humanitarian issues in Asia and the Middle East and global policy and budget. In 2014, she was Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

From 1993 to 1996, Clements served at the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on a Foreign Service appointment. She was Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs in 1997-1998. Clements served as a Senior Emergency Officer for Europe, the Newly Independent States, and the Americas, and later as Balkans Assistance Coordinator; she was deployed to Albania in 1999. She worked for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Bangladesh in 1992.

Clements holds a B.A. in International Studies and an M.A. in Urban Affairs from Virginia Tech, USA. She is a national of the United States of America.



Mr. Thomas Schnöll, Special Representative and Permanent Observer of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the United Nations in New York

Mr. Thomas Schnöll took up duties as OECD Special Representative to the United Nations, New York, on 15 January 2025. Before taking up this post, Mr. Schnöll acted as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of the OECD, taking up his functions on 16 January 2023. Previously, Mr. Schnöll served as the Acting Austrian Ambassador to France since January 2022 and as Alternate Permanent Delegate to UNESCO from September 2022. From 2018 to January 2021, Thomas was the Austrian Permanent Representative to the OECD. Prior to that, he served as spokesperson for the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in Vienna, Austria, from 2015 to 2018, and as the Austrian Ambassador to Albania, from 2013 to 2015. An Austrian national, Thomas holds a Master's Degree in Law from the Johannes Kepler University in Linz (Austria). He attended the Vienna Diplomatic Academy and graduated from the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA) in 1999 in Paris, France



Mr. Chris Earney, Head of the United Nations Futures Lab

Chris Earney is a seasoned professional working at the intersection of multilateralism, innovation, foresight, and culture change. With over 17 years of experience at the United Nations, Chris currently heads the UN Futures Lab, an initiative aimed at leveraging foresight to support the UN to anticipate the future of global challenges, crises, risks and opportunities. He co-founded the UNHCR Innovation Service, focusing on leveraging technology and collaborative intelligence to address issues such as forced displacement and refugee welfare. Throughout his career, Chris has served in diverse operational contexts, including Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Sudan, Syria, and Jordan, both in crisis and development settings. His work involves not only operational leadership but also the strategic development of innovative frameworks that help organizations adapt to an increasingly complex global landscape.