

Commemoration of 70th Anniversary of ECOSOC

Speaker bios as per the programme



His Excellency Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council

His Excellency Oh Joon was elected seventy-first President of the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2015. Ambassador Oh is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York. He was previously Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Singapore and Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General

Mr. Jan Eliasson was elected President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the United States from 2000 until 2005. In 2006, Mr. Eliasson was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden. Earlier, he served as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 2000, and as permanent Representative of Sweden from 1988 to 1992.



His Excellency Narendra Damodardas Modi, Prime Minister of India

His Excellency Narendra Damodardas Modi is the 15th and current Prime Minister of India, in office since 26 May 2014. HE Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014 and is the Member of Parliament (MP) from Varanasi. He led the BJP in the 2014 general election.



His Excellency Juan Somavia, Chile (1993, 1998)

His Excellency Juan Somavía is the former Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Somavia served as President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council from 1993 to 1994 and 1998 to 1999. He was also Director-General of the International Labour Organization. He has also served as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Interregional Policy Cooperation.



His Excellency Ahmad Kamal, Pakistan (1995)

His Excellency Ahmad Kamal served as a professional diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan for close to forty years. During his decade long assignment as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, he served as Vice President of the General Assembly and President of the Economic and Social Council.



His Excellency Karel Kovanda, Czech Republic (1997)

His Excellency Karel Kovanda served as Czech Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1993 until 1997. From 2005 to 2010, Ambassador Kovanda worked as Deputy Director-General of Relex in the European Commission. In 2007, he chaired the Kimberley Process.



His Excellency Gert Rosenthal, Guatemala (2003)

In 1999 His Excellency Gert Rosenthal was appointed Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, where he remained until 2004. He served as ECOSOC President in 2003. In 2006, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Earlier he served as Executive Secretary at ECLAC. In October 2012, he was the President of the United Nations Security Council.



Her Excellency Sylvie Lucas, Luxembourg (2009)

Her Excellency Sylvie Lucas is Luxembourg's ambassador to the United Nations and was president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2009. From 1995 to 2000 she was the deputy permanent representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations.



His Excellency Miloš Koterec, Slovak Republic (2012)

His Excellency Miloš Koterec is currently Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. Previously he was appointed as the Permanent Representative of Slovakia in 2009. He served as ECOSOC President in 2012. He also worked at the Permanent Mission to NATO for Slovakia in 2001. In 2005 he was elected as a Member of the European Parliament for Slovakia.



Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, former Secretary of ECOSOC

Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed is a former Secretary of ECOSOC. Previously he served as Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General of United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.



Mr. Warren Hoge, Senior Advisor for External Relations, International Peace Institute

Warren Hoge joined the International Peace Institute as Vice President and Director of External Relations in June 2008. Previously, in more than three decades as an editor and foreign correspondent at the New York Times, he served as Bureau Chief in Rio de Janeiro, London, and the United Nations, Deputy Metropolitan Editor, Foreign Editor, and Editor of The New York Times Magazine.



His Excellency David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

His Excellency David Donoghue served as Co-facilitator, Intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2009, HE Mr Donoghue was appointed Political Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin. He was also Ambassador of Ireland to the Russian Federation.



Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Chair, Committee for Development Policy

José Antonio Ocampo is Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs and Member of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. He is Chair of the United Nations' Committee for Development Policy. He has been UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Minister of Finance, Planning and Agriculture of Colombia.



Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University

Sarah F. Cliffe is currently the director of New York University's Center on International Cooperation. Previously, she was the Special Representative for the World Bank's World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development, and the Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General of Civilian Capacities to the United Nations.



Mr. Rakesh Rajani, Director, Civic Engagement and Government, Ford Foundation

Rakesh Rajani leads the Civic Engagement and Government team and has directed the Ford Foundation's work to advance democratic participation and governance. Before joining the Ford Foundation in 2015, Rakesh was based in Tanzania, where he served as head of the independent Twaweza organization. Previously, Rakesh served as the lead civil society chair for the Open Government Partnership.



Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

In 2013 the Secretary General of the UN appointed Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan as his first ever Envoy on Youth. Mr. Alhendawi was a co-founder of the Youth for Democracy Network at the Jordanian Commission for Democratic Culture. He is a co-founder of the International Youth Council. He previously worked as a Team Leader for the World Bank funded programme to the League of Arab States on Institutional Development to Strengthen Arab Policy and Participation.