



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING

“Aftermath of recent hurricanes:
Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda”

24 October 2017, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

2nd Conference Room, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Bios of Speakers

Opening



H. E. Ambassador Marie Chatardová

President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Ambassador Marie Chatardová is the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session. From 2010 to 2015, Ambassador Chatardová was her country’s Ambassador to France and Monaco, and its Permanent Representative to the International Organization of la Francophonie. Between 2013 and 2016, she served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A career diplomat, Ambassador Chatardová held several positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Chatardová holds a doctorate of law from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.



H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák

President of the General Assembly of the 72nd Session of the United Nations

On 31 May 2017, the General Assembly of the United Nations elected H. E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák of Slovakia as President of its seventy-second session, which spans from September 2017 to September 2018. At the time of his election, Mr. Lajčák was serving his third term as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, a position he held since April 2012. From April 2012 to March 2016, Mr. Lajčák also served as Deputy Prime Minister of his country. In 2007, Mr. Lajčák was appointed High Representative of the International Community and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During his tenure, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the landmark Stabilization and Association

Agreement with the European Union. From 2009 to July 2010, Mr. Lajčák served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. From 2010 to 2012, Mr. Lajčák helped shape the newly formed diplomatic service of the European Union, the European External Action Service, as its Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia.



H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. She was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women's Millennium Initiative, and 2016 African Union Reform. Her 35-year career began in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.

Special Address



The Hon. Dr. Douglas Wilbert Slater

Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Dr. Douglas Wilbert Slater is the Assistant Secretary-General of the Directorate of Human and Social Development of CARICOM. A national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a medical doctor by profession, Dr. Slater was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs of St. Vincent and the Grenadines during 2010-2013. In that capacity, he also served as representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the ACP-EU Parliamentarians Group, and as alternate for the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Authorities. Dr. Slater served as Minister of Health and the Environment, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and was the CARICOM Minister of Health designated to negotiate the regional approach with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) during the establishment of the GF. He also served as Chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)/Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). Dr. Slater was also honoured by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat as one of the CARICOM's first Champion for Change.

Panel discussion



Ms. Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times

Lisa Friedman is a reporter on the climate desk of the New York Times, focusing on climate and environmental policy in Washington. She has covered eight international climate talks and chased climate-related stories from the bottom of a Chinese coal mine to the top of snow-capped Himalaya Mountains. She previously worked for Climatewire where she led a team of 12 reporters focused on the business and politics of the changing climate. Before Climatewire, she was the Washington bureau chief for The Oakland Tribune and later The Los Angeles Daily News.



Ms. Alicia Bárcena Ibarra

Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

In 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Alicia Bárcena Ibarra of Mexico as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Ms. Bárcena Ibarra served as the Chef de Cabinet to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan before serving as the Under-Secretary-General for Management. Earlier in her career, Ms. Bárcena Ibarra served as Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, contributing substantively and increased interagency collaboration to provide a regional perspective on the Millennium Development Goals and on Financing for Sustainable Development, connecting issues of inequality, poverty, economic development and sustainability with the required fiscal policies needed to address extreme poverty. As Chief of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, she heightened the profile of the Regional Commission in the areas of climate change, sustainable energy, fiscal policies and environment. She previously served as Coordinator of UNEP, as well as Adviser to the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Programme in the UNDP.



Dr. Robert Glasser

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Dr. Robert Glasser is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction. From 2008 to 2015, he was the Secretary General of CARE International. From 2003-2007, Dr Glasser was the Chief Executive of CARE Australia, overseeing aid programmes in Cambodia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, and in the Middle East, among others. Prior to joining CARE, he was Assistant Director General at the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). Dr Glasser has also worked on international energy and environmental policy for the US Department of Energy and on peace and conflict issues at a variety of institutions. Dr Glasser is a member of the board of the Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA), a global alliance of more than 450 national and international organisations focussing on climate change advocacy; and serves as Chairman of the Board of the CHS International Alliance, a new organisation resulting from the merger of People in Aid and the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP).



Ms. Ursula Mueller

Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

In January 2017, Ms. Ursula Mueller was appointed as the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in OCHA. Ms. Mueller has over thirty years of experience in international affairs, global issues and development financing. She has been Executive Director of the World Bank Group since September 2014, responsible for a range of issues including strategy, policy, budget and the approval of programmes worth \$62 billion in 2016. Prior to this role, Ms. Mueller served as Director General in Germany's Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (2012-2014), and as Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2012). Ms. Mueller coordinated a taskforce in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to respond to the global Financial Crisis (2009-2010). Ms. Mueller has significant humanitarian and field experience. She was Germany's Humanitarian Coordinator (2006-2009), Special Envoy to Afghanistan (2001-2002), and Germany's Civil Coordinator in Kosovo (2000).



Ms. Jessica Faieta

Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Jessica Faieta is UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Director for Latin America and the Caribbean since May 2014. Previously she held the position of Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Faieta was previously the Senior Country Director in Haiti, leading UNDP's recovery and reconstruction efforts in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake. She also served as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in El Salvador and Belize (2007-2010). She served in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, first as Principal Officer to the Chef de Cabinet then as Director of the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General (2005-2006). Ms. Faieta was also the Deputy Director and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the UNDP Administrator. She started her career with UNDP in 1991 as a UN Volunteer programme officer in Guyana. In 1997, she was appointed Deputy Resident Representative (DRR) in Cuba. She also served as DRR in Panama (1998-2001) and in Argentina (2001-2). Before UNDP, she worked for the Canadian Embassy in Ecuador (1987-1991).



Mr. Francis Ghesquiere

Head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Francis Ghesquiere is the Head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a global partnership hosted by the World Bank with programs in more than 70 countries. He has extensive experience in ex-post and ex-ante disaster risk management operations and is known for his leadership on a number of flagship initiatives, including the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), the Central America Probabilistic Risk Modeling Initiative, and the Understanding Risk Forum (UR). He was also key in the design of new policy instruments to help accelerate World Bank response to disasters, including the policy on emergency operations and innovative contingent financing instruments such as the CAT-DDO and Contingent Emergency Response Components. Mr. Ghesquiere holds a Master Degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and an Engineering Degree from the University of Louvain. He also studied Finance and Economics at New York University, ESADE Barcelona and HEC Paris.