



### 2018 INTEGRATION SEGMENT

#### *Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies*

1 - 3 May 2018

United Nations Headquarters, New York

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## Day 1 (Tuesday, 1 May 2018)

### Opening of the Integration Segment (10 - 11:00am)



#### **H.E. Mr. Mahmamin Mahmadaminov**

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmadaminov is the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations and the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session. From 2010 to 2014, Ambassador Mahmadaminov served as Minister for Labour and Social Protection. He headed the State Savings Bank “AMONATBONK” in the capital, from 2005 until 2010, prior to which he was First Deputy of the JSC “ORIONBANK” since 2003. Between 1993 and 2001, Ambassador Mahmadaminov served as General Manager of the Tajikistan and Pakistan (IR) Mountain Society Project of the Aga Khan Foundation Development Support Programme. Ambassador Mahmadaminov was educated at Tajikistan State University, Dushanbe (1983-1988) and at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, United States (2001-2003).



#### **H.E. Mr. Kamoliddinzoda Ilyos Jamoliddin**

Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan

Mr. Jamoliddin was appointed Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan in February 2016. From 2014 to 2016, he served as Advisor of the Assistant Division of the President of Tajikistan on Economic Issues, while from 2010-2014, he held the position of Advisor to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on Economic Policy. Prior to these appointments, he was the Chief Specialist of Economic Reform and Investment at the Department of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan. Mr. Jamoliddin holds degrees from the Plekhannov Moscow Institute of Agriculture.



#### **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA

Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of

the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. He has served, among others, as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013). In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

### The quest for resilience and sustainability: seizing the moment



**Mr. Eduardo Porter**  
Journalist, New York Times

Mr. Eduardo Porter writes the Economic Scene column for The New York Times. Formerly he was a member of The Times' editorial board, where he wrote about business, economics, and a mix of other matters. Mr. Porter began his career in journalism over two decades ago as a financial reporter for Notimex, a Mexican news agency, in Mexico City. He was deployed as a correspondent to Tokyo and London, and in 1996 he moved to São Paulo, Brazil, as editor of América Economía, a business magazine. In 2000, Mr. Porter went to work at The Wall Street Journal in Los Angeles to cover the growing Hispanic population. He joined The New York Times in 2004 to cover economics. Mr. Porter was born in Phoenix and grew up in the United States, Mexico and Belgium. He graduated with a degree in physics from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and has an M.Sc. in quantum fields and fundamental forces from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London.



**Mr. Daniel Recht**  
CEO of Volute, Inc., and Senior Engineer at Otherlab

Mr. Recht is a materials scientist and energy technologist working to accelerate the development and commercialization of a new generation of cleantech innovations. Previously he was Head of Emerging Markets and Team Leader at the Sustainability Center at OCI, a global producer of high-value-added specialty chemicals. He has also been a Teaching Fellow at Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.



**Ms. Sheela Patel**

Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC)

Ms. Sheela Patel is the founder Director of SPARC, a Mumbai-based NGO that has been working on housing and infrastructure rights for the urban poor since 1984. She is widely recognized for seeking urgent attention to the issues of urban poverty, housing and infrastructure onto the radar of governments, bilateral and international agencies, foundations and other organizations. SPARC has been working in alliance with two Community Based Organizations – National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) and Mahila Milan (women’s collectives in slums) that are active in 70 cities in different states of India. Since 1999, Ms. Patel has also been Secretary and Chief Executive of SPARC Samudaya Nirman Sahayak (SSNS), a non-profit company set up to assist slum communities take on construction projects in cities to provide slum dwellers to build homes and sanitation for themselves. She is a founder member of Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), an international network of poor people’s organizations and the NGOs that support them in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and is currently its Chairperson. Ms. Patel has received the David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award from the Synergos Institute in recognition of her extensive efforts to ameliorate urban poverty, and Padmashree, a national award from the Indian government, for her work on urban poverty issues.



**Ms. Jolly Amatya**

Secretariat of United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

Ms. Jolly Amatya is a young professional from Nepal. She is Executive Director of Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative (SFFI), a social enterprise that creates sustainable livelihoods for women by providing training, micro loans, and required assistance to develop cooperatives positively impacting families in rural Nepal. Through her work with the international community, the National Youth Council (she is the UN focal point), local youth groups, and the Alliance for Disaster relief, she worked with national and local authorities in coordinating and facilitating relief, recovery and reconstruction projects during the 2015 Nepal earthquake and 2017 Nepal Floods. Ms. Amatya is a member of the UN Inter Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), Working Group on Gender Equality. She serves as the Honorary Tourism Ambassador for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Nepal. She has also been serving on the Board of Directors for the US National Committee for UN Women, New York Chapter. As the Global Ambassador of Women Protection Center Nepal (WPC) based in Seattle and Nepal (Hetauda), she works to raise awareness and advocate to prevent girl trafficking, and promote the education and empowerment of young girls, and marginalized and indigenous girls/women. Ms. Amatya has previously served as the Co- Chair and the Senior Program Coordinator for the “Youth Assembly at the United Nations”, a biannual youth conference and has recently been recognized by the “National Youth Award” by the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Youth) & “Champions of Change” by the US National Committee of UN Women.



**Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro**

Special Representative to the UN and Director, International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations

Mr Pinheiro was the ILO lead negotiator in the UN deliberations on the post 2015 development agenda and on financing for development. He is the co-chair of the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the Executive Secretary of the Social Protection Interagency Coordination Board. Mr Pinheiro served as senior social protection adviser to the ILO Director General in Geneva since 2009. He was part of the ILO G20 Sherpa Team from 2009 to 2013 and acted as Executive Secretary of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, which led to the adoption of the ILO recommendation on social protection floors. He was also the Director General Cabinet’s focal point for the preparation of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and its follow up. Mr Pinheiro also served in the Social Security Department as Senior Social Security expert for the Latin America and the Caribbean from 2007 to 2009 and as Senior Social Protection Officer at the ILO Training Centre in Turin from 2005 to 2007. Prior to joining the ILO, Mr Pinheiro was the National Secretary for Social Security of Brazil (1999 -2002) responsible for designing and implementing the Brazilian Pension reform, including measures to increase coverage and strengthen the social protection system. During this period he acted as Vice-Minister and Interim Minister of Social Security and as Executive Secretary of the National Social Security Council. In 2001, Mr Pinheiro was elected Vice-President of the Inter-American Social Security Conference (CISS), based in Mexico City. Between 2002 and 2005 he worked in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in Paris and also provided consultancy services for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and to the World Bank in projects in Africa and Latin America. Mr. Pinheiro is an Economist and holds a Master degree in Political Science from the University of Brasília and specializations in Public Administration and Public Policies (National School of Public Administration, Brasília), in Evaluation of Social Programmes and Projects (ILPES-ECLAC, Santiago de Chile); Pensions Schemes (Harvard International Institute for Development, Cambridge) and Leadership in the Public Sector (Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge). He taught in the Economics Department of the University of Brasília (1994 – 1996) and has authored various articles in the area of pensions and social protection.



**Ms. Carla Mucavi**

Director, Food and Agriculture Organization Liaison Office in New York

Ms Mucavi, national of Mozambique, holds a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations from the Institute for Higher Studies in International Relations, Mozambique and a Master’s Degree in Cooperation and Development Planning from the University La Sapienza, Italy. Ms Mucavi is a career diplomat having served in different functions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique between 1989 and 2015, including in the Division for International Organizations and Conferences; as Counsellor in charge of Nordic countries; Deputy Director of State Protocol; and as Chief of Cabinet of the Minister. She has also served at the Embassy of Mozambique in Ethiopia.

Between 2007 and 2015 she was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Italy, Greece and Malta, and Permanent Representative to FAO, WFP and IFAD. Ms Mucavi has been Director of the FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations in New York since August 2015.



**Dr. Ayona Datta**

Reader in Urban Futures, King's College

Dr. Datta's broad research interests are in the critical geographies of smart urbanism, gender citizenships and urban futures in the global south. Her research has sought to develop theoretical and empirical work on slums and informal settlements in exploring how marginal social actors live through the violence of law and urban development. Her current research seeks to advance theoretical and empirical work on postcolonial urbanism through the examination of smart cities as experiments in urban innovation and digital citizenships. Dr. Datta is the author of 'The Illegal City: Space, law and gender in a Delhi squatter settlement' (2012) and co-editor of 'Translocal geographies: Spaces, places, connections' (2011) and 'Mega-urbanization in the global South: Fast cities and new urban utopias of the postcolonial state' (2017). She has a forthcoming co-edited book titled 'Postcolonial Utopias: Histories of the urban future'. Dr. Datta is journal editor of Dialogues in Human Geography and Urban Geography and on the editorial boards of Antipode; Gender, Place and Culture; and Society and Space. Dr. Datta maintains a personal blog titled 'The city inside out'. She has a first degree in Architecture (Delhi), an MPhil in Environmental Design (Cantab.) and a PhD in Environmental Design and Planning (Arizona State University). Prior to entering academia, she practiced as a chartered architect in Delhi and London.



**Dr. Rashmi Jaipal**

Main Representative, American Psychological Association at the UN; and Professor Emeritus Cross-cultural Psychology Center for Cultures and Communication and Alternative Visions for the Future, Bloomfield College

Dr. Jaipal's areas of interest are immigration and acculturation, psychology and sustainable development, cultural conceptions of health and healing, indigenous psychologies, cross-cultural communication and implicit culture. Dr. Jaipal is the founder and director of the Center for Cultures and Communication at Bloomfield, as well as a Diversity Internship program and Diversity Training Certificate at the college. She runs cross-cultural communications training workshops both on and off-campus, and is developing the center into a bridge between the local and the global. She has started a new initiative at the center called Alternative Visions for the Future, which looks at alternative ways to build sustainable societies, drawing from diverse and indigenous cultures. Dr. Jaipal received her PhD in clinical psychology from the New School for Social Research in New York in 1995, and worked for some years as clinical coordinator in a rehabilitation program for the homeless mentally ill in Manhattan. Her doctoral dissertation looked at cultural differences in moral perspective between India and the United States. In 2013, Dr. Jaipal's was appointed Main Representative of the American Psychological Association at the United Nations.





**Ms. Orsolya Bartha**

Senior Advisor on Development and Human Rights, International Disability Alliance

Ms. Bartha’s main focus over the last few years has been to advocate for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities at the High Level Political Forum. She has been working in the human rights and humanitarian field for over 15 years. Ms. Bartha is based in the IDA New York Office.



**Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**

Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy, and Professor of International Affairs at The New School

Dr. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr is a development economist interested in human development and capabilities and the broad question of national and international policy strategies. Her current research includes projects on public policies and economic and social rights, and the impact of global goal setting on international development agendas. From 1995 to 2004, she was lead author and director of the UNDP Human Development Reports. Prior to this, she worked at the World Bank and UNDP on agriculture, aid coordination in Africa, and capacity development. Her recent publications include: Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights (2015); The MDGs, Capabilities and Human Rights: The Power of Numbers to Shape Agendas (2015); Human Rights and the Capabilities Approach: An Interdisciplinary Conversation (2011); as well as numerous articles and book chapters on issues of poverty, gender, human rights, and technology. Fukuda-Parr serves on the Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health, and the boards of the International Association for Feminist Economics, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, and Knowledge Ecology International. She also serves on the editorial boards of Feminist Economics and Journal of Human Development and Capabilities.



**Mr. Brian Keane**

Adviser for indigenous peoples’ issues, USAID

Mr. Brian Keane is spearheading efforts to ensure that U.S. development assistance is carried out in a way that recognizes and respects the rights of the world's indigenous peoples and ensures that they are partners in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and projects that affect their lands, lives and livelihoods. Mr. Keane has over 20 years of experience working with indigenous communities in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. As executive director of the international organization, Land is Life, he worked to ensure that indigenous peoples have a seat at the table in international policy-making processes regarding conservation, protection of biodiversity, development and climate change. While there, he worked extensively with

indigenous women to design and implement development and conservation projects. He also worked with indigenous youth to develop networks to more effectively promote and protect indigenous peoples' rights.

## Session 2: Technology and disaster risk reduction (3 – 4:30pm)



### **H.E. Ms. Koki Muli Grignon**

Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its 62nd session

Ambassdor Grignon has been the Charge d' Affaires, a.i of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations since 2013. She has served as lecturer at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Kenya, and held a number of other positions including Director of External Linkages and International Programmes; Director/Dean of School of External Studies and Continuing Education; Acting Legal Officer of SEKU and also chaired many University Committees. Ambassador Muli Grignon has served as joint Secretary of the Task Force reviewing Press Laws (1993 - 1995); Commissioner/Board Member of the National Commission on Gender and Development (2004-2007); Member of the National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee (2004-2005), among others. She participated in the 2003 – 2004 National Constitutional Conference; provided civic/voter education and was key in the observation of the Referenda of 2005 (co-chairing a consortium of Civil Society Organisations) and 2010 on the Proposed Constitution of Kenya. For more than 25 years, she was involved in the democratization and constitutional making processes of Kenya and elsewhere and has written extensively. She has also worked with and consulted for inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations including United Nations Peace Keeping Missions (in the Sudan and South Sudan), United Nations Development Programme, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International IDEA, Institute for Education in Democracy, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya), among others. She was also a writer and editor at the Nairobi Law Monthly Journal and a weekly columnist of the East African Standard Daily Newspaper, Kenya for more than a year. Ambassador Grignon is an international human rights lawyer and an elections and constitutional law expert, an Advocate of the Judiciary of Kenya and East Africa, Commissioner for Oaths, Notary Public and a Certified Public Secretary. She is a Graduate of University of London; University of Nairobi, Kenya School of Law and a 1992 Human Rights Advocate and Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, New York, among others.



### **Mr. Rustam Shohiyon**

First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Tajikistan

Mr. Shohiyon was appointed First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense in May 2015. From 2008 to 2015, he served as Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense. He has served as Head of the Department of Rear and Military Equipment Transport, Equipment and Ancillary Facilities "Najot" of CoES, and

Head of the Department of Rear and Military Equipment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense. Mr. Shohiyon graduated from the Institute of Agriculture in Mechanical Engineering in 1985 and from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Public and local administration in 2010.



**Mr. Ronald Jackson**

Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

Prior to Mr. Jackson's appointment in 2013, he was the Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (2006-2013), where he had previously served as Deputy Director General, Senior Director of the Preparedness and Operations Division, and Regional Coordinator for the Southern parishes. He has contributed to the coordination of the national response to several hurricanes, including Charlie, Ivan (2004); Dennis and Emily (2005); and Hurricane Sandy (2012). He has been instrumental in the development of the

Guidelines for Child-Friendly Disaster Management and Response, Reinstatement of the ODPEM Dedicated Communication Network and Revision of the Emergency Welfare Plan. In 2010, Mr. Jackson received a Certificate of Commendation from the Caribbean Community for his contribution to the rescue and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. He has served as member of CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee, President of the IDB Caribbean Policy Dialogue Forum, and co-Chair for the Inter American Network for Disaster Management. He also represented CDEMA Member States on the Hyogo Framework for Action Mid-Term Review Committee and Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action Committee. Mr. Jackson holds a Master of Science Degree in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Resource Management from the University of the West Indies and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Planning and Environmental Resource Development from the University of Technology.



**Ms. Annisa Triyanti**

Representative of the Young Scientists in the UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group

Ms. Annisa Triyanti was the Focal point for UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Science-Policy Interface Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in 2016-2017. From 2013-2017, she was working as junior lecturer at the Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. She is involved both in generating data collection through extensive fieldwork experience as well as in reporting process across different global frameworks, including SFDRR and SDGs. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR)-University of Amsterdam, in the topic of governance of coastal ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction in Indonesia and India.



**Dr. Youba Sokona**

Special Advisor on Sustainable Development, South Centre

With over 35 years of experience addressing energy, environment and sustainable development in Africa. Reflecting his status, Dr Sokona was elected Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2015. Prior to this, Dr Sokona was Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group III on the mitigation of climate change for the Fifth Assessment Report after serving as a Lead Author since 1990. In addition to these achievements, Dr Sokona has a proven track record of organisational leadership and management, for example, leading the conception, development and initiating the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, as the first Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and as Executive Secretary of the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory (OSS). Dr Sokona's advice is highly sought after, and as such, he is affiliated with numerous boards and organisations, including Honorary Professor at the University College London (UCL), Member of Science Advisory Committee of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and as a Special Advisor to the African Energy Leaders Group. In short, Dr Sokona is a global figure, with deep technical knowledge, extensive policy experience and an unreserved personal commitment to African led development.



**H.E Mr. Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob**

Chair of UN Forum on Forests at its 13<sup>th</sup> session

Ambassador Yaakob is the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations. Prior to his appointment, he was Deputy Secretary-General for Bilateral Affairs in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2013 to 2016, he was Director General of the Malaysia National Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Ambassador Yaakob served as Malaysia's Ambassador to Austria and to Vienna-based international organizations between 2010 and 2013, and as Ambassador to Slovakia in 2011 and to Qatar from 2007 to 2010. Before that, he was Under-Secretary-General for Multilateral Political Division in 2005. A career diplomat, Ambassador Yaakob was first posted to the Foreign Ministry as an Assistant Secretary in 1988, serving later at Malaysia embassies in Austria, Slovakia, United States and China. He also worked in the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs, International Organizations and East Asia divisions. Ambassador Yaakob holds a bachelor's degree in ecology from the University of Malaya in Malaysia, and a diploma in public administration.

## Day 2 (Wednesday, 2 May 2018)

### Session 3: Balancing infrastructure development and sustainability (10am – 1pm)



**Mr. Michael Shank**

Communications Director, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance

Michael's professional career includes leading press and/or policy shops at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Climate Nexus, Friends Committee on National Legislation, U.S. Congress (Mike Honda), Institute for Economics and Peace, Biodiversity Northwest, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and more. Michael is adjunct faculty at New York University's Center for Global Affairs, where he teaches graduate courses on Sustainable Development, Power and Politics and Climate and Security. Shank is also adjunct faculty and a board member at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, where he teaches graduate courses on Communicating Conflict. Michael is a former columnist for the Washington Post and US News & World Report and a contributor to USA Today, CNN, The Guardian, TIME, Fast Company, MSNBC and more. Michael holds a Ph.D. from George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.



**Dr. Yousef Al-Shawaarbeh**

Mayor of Amman, Jordan

Dr. Al-Shawaarbeh was appointed Mayor of Amman in August 2017. From 2013 to 2016, he was Deputy Mayor of Amman. He has held positions as Minister of Political and Parliament Affairs, Vice Chairman of the Investment Committee at the Greater Amman Municipality, and member of the Greater Amman Municipality City Council. Dr. Al-Shawaarbeh holds a Bachelor degree in Law from the Al-Ahliyya Amman University, and a Master's degree in Law as well as a PhD in Constitutional Law from the University of Al-Neelain.



**Mr. Christopher Williams**

Director, UN-habitat New York Office

Mr. Williams is a development practitioner with over twenty-five years of experience in international organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas and with training in economics and sociology. Prior to UN-Habitat, Mr Williams served as Executive Director of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Geneva for five years. He also held senior posts in global fund management, advocacy, fund raising and policy research, and worked on programmes to upgrade water, sanitation and shelter in settlements. He

worked in Africa and the United States promoting community economic development. His work with homeless shelters, community organizations, financial intermediaries, and community lending institutions gave him exposure to private, civil and public sectors. He has studied economics, public policy and sociology, and holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research.



**Dr. Nancy Odendaal**

Associate Professor: City and Regional Planning, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town

From 2009 to 2012, Dr. Odendaal worked at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town on curricula reform and building the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS) across Anglophone Africa. AAPS has worked with UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance in promoting more contextually relevant planning education. She is the co-chair of the governing council of the Global Planning Education Association Network, an international umbrella body of ten regional planning schools' associations and incoming chair of the Association of African Planning Schools. Nancy's work focuses on spatial planning, planning education and urban infrastructure. Nancy has published on the role of technology in urban change, the use of technological tools in the urban planning process and the relationship between spatial change, service delivery and networked infrastructure. Her current work focuses on infrastructure and spatial change in cities of the global South. Current research projects include collaboration with Neuchâtel University, Kings University, and National University of Singapore on a comparative study of smart cities in India and South Africa entitled: "Smart Cities: 'provincializing' the global urban age in India and South Africa." Nancy is also co-PI on a one-year British Academy funded research project on Drones and Humanitarian Assistance in East Africa.



**H.E. Mr. Ion Jinga**

Chair of the Commission on Population and Development at its 51<sup>st</sup> session

Ambassador Jinga is the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations. From 2008 to 2015, Ambassador Jinga was his country's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and Doyen of the European Ambassadors to the United Kingdom from 2012 to 2015. From 2003 to 2008, he served as Ambassador to Belgium. Ambassador Jinga was Director-General for European Union Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest from 2002 to 2003. He holds a PhD in Law at Alexandru Ioan Cuza Academy in Bucharest, Master's degrees in Advanced European Studies in Administration from the College of Europe, in Bruges, Belgium, and in Public Administration from the National School for Political and Administrative Studies, in Bucharest, and bachelor's degrees in Law and in Science from the University of Bucharest.



**Mr. Nikulás Hannigan**

Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its 56<sup>th</sup> session

Mr. Hannigan is the Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations. Mr. Nikulás Hannigan has been a career diplomat in the Icelandic Foreign Service for twenty years, serving in the Icelandic Delegation to the Council of Europe, then in the Foreign Ministry in the Department of External Trade and subsequently as Director for international institutions, including the United Nations. From 2009-2014, he was Deputy Head of Mission at Iceland’s Embassy to the European Union in Brussels. Prior to his career in the foreign service he worked as senior officer at the EFTA Secretariat in

Brussels.

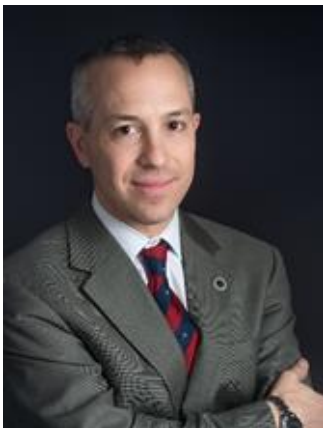


**Mr. Federico Gutiérrez**

Mayor of Medellín, Office of the Mayor of Medellín

Mr. Federico Gutierrez is the Mayor of Medellín. He is a civil engineer and specialist in senior management from the Universidad de Medellín, and specialist in political science from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana. He was an integral urban security consultant for the Ministry of Security and Justice of Buenos Aires, Argentina and also for the Municipality of Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico. He worked as a consultant of the HGI company and as a consultant and resident engineer of the VIFASA S.A. company. When he was

28 years old, he was elected City Councilor of Medellín (2004-2007) and at 32, he was reelected as city councilor (2008-2011). In 2008, he was president of the Council of Medellín. He has focused his political agenda on fundamentals like: security, an integrated transportation system, mobility, public service, incentives for public housing, legislation plans, the environment, culture, bike routes and public bikes.



**Mr. Daniel Zarrilli**

Senior Director, Climate Policy and Programs, and Chief Resilience Officer New York City, Office of the Mayor

Mr. Daniel Zarrilli is overseeing the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency, the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, the Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination, and the coordination of the City’s OneNYC program of inclusive climate action. From March 2014 to December 2016, he served as the first Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency, leading an over \$20 billion climate adaptation program across the five boroughs, and had served as the Acting Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability from February to December 2014, during which time the City committed to its goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Prior to this, he served on the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, a task force that developed an award-winning climate adaptation

program for New York City after Hurricane Sandy, and was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg in 2013 as the city's first Director of Resiliency. In 2016, Daniel was appointed by NOAA to a 3-year term to the Sustained National Climate Assessment advisory board. He is also serving a 3-year term on FEMA's National Advisory Council, and recently concluded work advising the State of Louisiana on its 2017 Coastal Master Plan update. Previously, he was Senior Vice President for Asset Management at the New York City Economic Development Corporation and spent five years with Bechtel Infrastructure Corporation. Daniel is a New York State Professional Engineer and holds an MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT and a BS in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University.



**Ms. Ursula Wynhoven**

International Telecommunications Union Representative to the United Nations, New York

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven joined the ITU in September 2017. Previously, Ursula spent 14 years with the UN Global Compact, the UN's corporate sustainability initiative, where her last position was Chief, Social Sustainability, Governance & Legal and member of the Executive Committee. Ursula led the UN Global Compact's platforms and workstreams on human rights and decent work, gender equality, poverty and inequality, peace, anti-corruption and the rule of law. Ursula also led legal affairs and oversaw policy development and implementation of the UN Global Compact's integrity measures. Ursula's tenure with the Global Compact also included a six-month loan as Senior Advisor, Business and Human Rights to the UN's Human Rights Office. Prior to joining the UN, Ursula worked in law firms and government human rights agencies in Australia and the US and for the OECD on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Ursula has Masters of Law degrees from Columbia Law School, where she was a Human Rights Fellow, and Monash Law School, and Bachelor's degrees in Law (Hons), Economics, and Letters. Since 2007, Ursula has been an Adjunct Professor in Corporate Sustainability, Business and Human Rights at Fordham Law School and previously taught at the Reykjavik University School of Law. Ursula is a Trustee of the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law at Columbia Law School. She has been admitted to practice law in jurisdictions in Australia, the US and the UK.



**Mr. Daniel Ponce Gandarillas**

Co-Founder and CEO of CityHeroes Inc.

CityHeroes was founded in 2013 with the vision of using technology to build better cities. Furthermore, with its main product CityTroops, the company helps organizations to better manage teams and assets on the ground, and to efficiently process the information generated in the field. By combining web, mobile, and even hardware technologies (IoT), CityHeroes helps private companies and public agencies across the globe to increase their efficiency by more than 91 per cent. Daniel Ponce Gandarillas has been recognized as an MIT Innovator under 35 and has been part of the World Economic Forum's New Champions. CityHeroes Inc. has been selected as one of GEW's 50 most promising



start-ups and has been part of the StartUp Chile, Seed Brazil and Tumml San Francisco acceleration programmes. It is supported by Westerwelle Foundation in Germany and Tumml Urban Ventures.



**Ms. Dorine Burmanje**

Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Ms. Dorine Burmanje is Chair of the Executive Board of the Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), and aims to position Kadaster at national and international level as partner in property related issues and geographic information facilitating society, in cooperation with relevant multi-stakeholders. Her main areas of responsibility include the general management of the organization, the positioning of Kadaster as a non-departmental public body, the promotion of Kadaster as a partner in the GEO sector as well as further development of innovation. Ms. Burmanje is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Netherlands Space Office, and a Board Member of the Dutch Centre of Geodesy and Geo-informatics. Prior to her current position at Kadaster, she was the Director of the Rijn and IJssel Waterboard.

**Session 4: National strategies for resilience (3 - 4:30pm)**



**Mr. Dominic Allen**

Chief, United Nations Volunteer Office in New York

Mr. Allen was appointed Chief of the New York Office of the UNV Programme in mid-2016, having served the previous 4 years as a Strategic Management Specialist in the Office of the UNV Executive Coordinator. Prior to that, Mr. Allen worked at the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UN-DOCO), where he led the team supporting the functioning of the Resident Coordinator System. Mr. Allen also served with the World Health Organization (WHO), working in their Headquarters, Regional Office for the Middle East, and Iraq Country Office on project management and external relations with a focus on emergency and humanitarian action. Mr. Allen holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge (Selwyn College) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Studies from the University of Huddersfield.



**H.E. Mr. Henk Ovink**

Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands

Mr. Henk Ovink was appointed as the first Special Envoy for International Water Affairs in 2015. As the Ambassador for Water, he is responsible for advocating water awareness around the world, focusing on building institutional capacity and coalitions among governments, multilateral organizations, private sector and NGO's to address the world's stressing needs on water and help initiate transformative interventions. Ovink is also Sherpa to the High Level Panel on Water, installed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and President of the World Bank Jim Kim with 10 Heads of State / Heads of Government, including Prime Minister Rutte from The Netherlands, to catalyze change in water awareness and implementation. Henk is Principal for Rebuild by Design, the resilience innovation competition he developed and led for President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force where he was Senior Advisor to the Chair. He has been Director General for Planning and Water Affairs and Director for National Spatial Planning in The Netherlands. Ovink teaches at the London School of Economics and at Harvard GSD and is member of the International Advisory Board for the City of Rotterdam. He was Curator for the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2012 'Making City', and curated the debate series 'Design and Politics: the next phase' for Aedes network Campus Berlin. He initiated the research program and is chief editor of the series of publications with NAI010 Publishers on Design and Politics.



**H.E. Mr. Romauld Sotario Ferreira**

Minister of the Environment and Housing, Bahamas

Minister Ferreira was sworn in as Minister of the Environment and Housing on May 15, 2017. He received his early education at St. Matthew's Parish and Queens College. He obtained a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) degree in Ecology and Chemistry at the University of the West Indies and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of London. He was also called to both the Bar of England and Wales at Lincolns Inn and The Bahamas Bar in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Minister Ferreira began his legal career at Graham Thompson & Co before joining Bannister & Company and then later establishing the law firm, Ferreira & Co to specialise in environmental law. Minister Ferreira is an affiliate member of The Bahamas Society of Engineers.



**Dr. Royol Chitradon**

Director, Committee and Secretariat Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute  
Ministry of Sciences and Technology

Prior to his appointment, Dr Chitradon was the Deputy Executive Director at the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, the Head of Thailand Integrated Water Resource Management (TIWRM) and Assistance Professor in the Computer Science Department at Kasetsart University. He sits on various Steering Committees both internationally and in Thailand. Dr. Chitradon holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, and a M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics, Mahidol University, Thailand. He also acquired a PhD in Informatics, Informatics Institute, Innsbruck University, Austria.



**Mr. Amr Nour**

Director, Regional Commissions New York Office

Mr. Nour is currently the Director of the United Nations Regional Commissions' Office in New York. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing strategic policy advice on a broad array of economic and social development issues on the global agenda with a bearing on the regional work undertaken by the Regional Commissions. He is also leading inter-regional coordination and collaboration efforts among the Commissions.

Before joining his current functions, Mr. Nour worked as a research and evaluation officer at the United Nations (UN). He conducted in depth UN system-wide programmatic and technical cooperation audits in the field, in addition to management evaluations, including on results-based management and reform in the UN system.

Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Nour worked as a diplomat advising the Government of Egypt on issues of foreign policy. His portfolio included, among others, the political economy of energy, trade-related issues and negotiations, as well as the sustainable development agenda. Mr. Nour also covered in-depth a number of political issues, including as a delegate to the Security Council. He represented his government in several global conferences and UN main and subsidiary bodies and led negotiations on behalf of several political groupings at the UN. Mr. Nour carries a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse University, United States; a Masters in Political Science from the University of Paris I/Sorbonne, France; in addition to Law and Engineering Degrees from Cairo University, Egypt. He also carries post-graduate certificates in international law and Middle-Eastern studies.

## Day 3 (Thursday, 3 May 2018)

### Session 5: Leveraging technology and innovation to support resilience and inclusiveness in Africa in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (10am – 3pm)



#### **Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi**

Founder and Executive Director, Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Organization (GPPHO)

Gogontlejang Phaladi is a philanthropist and development practitioner from Botswana. She is an African woman leader, who is passionately about transforming lives and believes a world free of poverty, with equity and dignity is possible with more youth driving the development agenda as agents of change. She is a seasoned human and social development expert who has served as a member of the African Union High Level Advisory Group on Humanitarian Effectiveness in Africa, Botswana Presidential Task Team of Vision 2036, UNICEF Botswana Child Ambassador, a former Radio Presenter, currently a member of the WHO external advisory group on the Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA) Framework and a Motivational Speaker. She is also a trained SRHR, CSE and HIV and AIDS educator and campaign facilitator having done several campaigns aligned with UNFPA and UNESCO. She is currently pursuing her undergraduate studies in LLB (Bachelor of Law) and doing humanitarian work as well as development work consultancy. During her spare time, she mentors girls and women through an initiative dubbed #SIMI (She Is My Inspiration) and she enjoys farming.



#### **Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah**

**Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Liberia**

Dr. Jallah is a dedicated and patriotic medical doctor with over 25 years of national and international work experience in clinical management of patients, as well as extensive public health knowledge. Prior to becoming Minister of Health in March 2018, Dr. Jallah served as the Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and the Medical Director for the Hope for Women International Medical Center for six years. During her tenure at The Hope for Women Medical Center, which was established in 2012, Dr. Jallah and the staff of Hope for Women Center provided health services to over 50,000 patients, which include services to pregnant women, children, and men. During the unprecedented Ebola crisis in Liberia, The Hope for Women Medical center was one of the few privately owned medical centers that remained opened and continued to provide services to the public. As the new Minister of Health for the newly elect pro-poor government, Dr. Wilhemina Jallah's vision and mission is to transform health care delivery through hard work, transparency, accountability and good governance. Her goal is strengthening donor/partner relationship and to build a resilient healthcare system that is affordable so that that everyone receives the requisite health services without being turned away. Her main focus over the next 12 months includes building the capacity of the

health workforce and to make sure that technology plays a pivotal role in improving health services and supply chain of drugs and medical supplies. The Minister’s overall objective is to ensure that Health services in Liberia falls in line with the UN sustainable developmental goals.



**Ms. Bience Gawanas**  
Special Adviser on Africa

In January 2018, Ms. Bience Gawanas of Namibia was appointed as Special Adviser on Africa. Ms. Gawanas was Special Adviser to Namibia’s Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare as well as Special Adviser to the Minister of Health and Social Services. From 2003 to 2008, she served as Commissioner for Social Affairs at the African Union. From 1996 to 2003, she was Ombudswoman of Namibia, having previously worked as a lecturer on gender law at the University of Namibia, from 1995 to 1997, and as a lawyer at the Legal Assistance Centre, a human rights non-governmental organization, from 1990 to 1991. She has served on various task forces and commissions, including the UNAIDS Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors, the Task Force for Scaling Up Education and Training for Health Workers, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health, the Global Steering Committee on scaling up towards Universal Access, and the Lancet-Oslo University Commission on Global Governance for Health. Ms. Gawanas holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from University of Warwick, United Kingdom, and an utter barrister degree from the Council of Legal Education School of Law/Lincoln’s Inn, United Kingdom. She also holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and an honorary doctorate in law from the University of the Western Cape.



**Ms. Rafiah Ibrahim**  
Senior Vice President and Head of Market Area Middle East & Africa, Ericsson

Rafiah Ibrahim is Senior Vice President and Head of Market Area Middle East & Africa since April 1, 2017. Prior to that, she served as the Head of Ericsson Region Middle East since 2014. Ibrahim has more than 36 years of experience in the telecommunications industry particularly in networks & digital services and in many areas such as sales, industry transformation and customer relations. She has held various leadership positions within the Ericsson Group since 1996. Throughout her career, she has worked in many countries - Malaysia, Bangladesh, UK, Middle East and Africa. During her leadership experience she has grown business in emerging markets, been responsible for Ericsson’s business in 11 countries on the African continent, led the broadcast services business from a post in London, as well as managed the integration of Red Bee Media in 2014. Ibrahim graduated from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, United Kingdom, with a master’s degree in Digital Communication Engineering.



**Mr. Frank Selker**

Director of International Sales, Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO)

Mr. Selker is responsible for connecting TAHMO to organizations that could benefit from weather data collected by TAHMO. He is also the founder and Principal of SelkerMetrics, a company that specializes in planning, analysis, and design of environmental monitoring projects. He was formerly a Founder and President at AssetExchange, a Founder and Principal at Decision Management Associates, and Senior Consultant at Decision Focus Inc. Mr. Selker has designed and led the development of environmental and financial risk management and decision support models for Fortune 500 clients, regulators, and research groups. He takes a lead role in analysis, modeling, and presentation of data to explore and understand findings and to achieve communication and decision-making goals. He holds a BA in Biology from Reed College and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.



**Mr. Joshua Ogure**

Project Manager, Map Kibera Trust

Mr. Joshua Ogure is also the team leader for Kibera News Network a citizen journalism program in Kibera Slum Nairobi Kenya. In his community, Josh strives to bring about positive social change by using the lens of his camera to engage and document what happens in and around his neighborhood. Josh has a wide range of experience working in the informal settlements of Nairobi including Mathare and Mukuru slums. As a project manager, Josh leads his team towards a successful Pilot project dubbed Open Schools Kenya that put all Kibera schools on the map and developed a website for them. As he strives to make the invisible visible using data and journalism for advocacy. Josh also uses his platforms to explore, investigate and give people the right information as he also holds the leaders accountable. Josh recently won and attended a four months IREX's Community Solutions Program in the United States from where he was awarded a certificate for demonstrating an outstanding leadership on peace and conflict resolution by George Mason University and the United States Department of States. November 2016, Josh on behalf of Map Kibera Trust won the Kenya Open Data award under the social impact category in November 2016.

Session 6: Designing a resilient and sustainable future – a toolkit to better prepare for tomorrow (3 – 5.30pm)



**Mr. Jeffery Huffines**

United Nations Representative in New York, CIVICUS

Mr. Huffines joined CIVICUS in April 2009 to serve as Main Representative at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, is an international alliance working with organizations and individuals in more than 160 countries to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world. He is a Senior Advisor of the UN DESA NGO Major Group Organizing Partners having served as a global Organizing Partner (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in sustainable development activities for Rio+20 and the SDGs/2030 Agenda. Mr. Huffines was also Chair of the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on the theme “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda”, that took place at UN HQ, 27-29 August 2014, and was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee from 2007-2011. He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



**Mr. Carlos Valdés González**

Director General, Civil Protection, National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), Mexico

Dr. Carlos Valdés was born in Mexico City and is a Geophysical Engineer from the Faculty of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. From 2005 to 2014, he held the position of Head of the National Seismological Service. In February 2014, he was appointed as General Director of CENAPRED by the Minister of the Interior. He acquired a Masters and a Doctorate degree in Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA).



**Dr. Hayat Sindi**

Member of the 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism

Dr. Hayat Sindi, a Saudi Arabian national, is also the founder and President of the Institute for Imagination and Ingenuity (i2institute), which focuses on fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as co-founder and director of 'Diagnostics for All', a nonprofit institution fusing biotechnology and microfluidics, dedicated to creating low-cost, easy-to-use, point-of-care diagnostics designed specifically for the 60 per cent of the developing world that lives beyond the reach of urban hospitals and medical

infrastructures. Originally graduated with a degree in pharmacology she holds a PhD in biotechnology from Cambridge University, UK, and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. She has invented a machine combining the effects of light and ultra-sound for use in biotechnology. Along with her scientific activities, she participated in numerous events aimed at raising the awareness of science amongst women, particularly in Saudi Arabia and the Muslim World. Dr. Sindi was one of the first women to be appointed by the King to the Saudi Arabia's highest consultative body, the Shura Council, and she is also a Goodwill Ambassador for Sciences at UNESCO. In 2012, she was named one of Newsweek's "150 Women Who Shake the World". Recently, Dr. Sindi was named by Forbes number 2 the most powerful Arab women in kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Last year Hayat Sindi received the Clinton Global Citizen Awards "leadership in Civil Society" for her work to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship among young people in the Middle East.



**Mr. Jamil Ahmad**

Director a.i. of United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office

Mr. Jamil Ahmad was previously Deputy Director of the New York Office, where he focused on liaising with the Permanent Missions to the UN in support of UNEP's policies and programme. From 2008 to 2014, he was the Secretary for the Governing Bodies of UNEP based in Nairobi, Kenya. A career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in many different duty stations with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs, including Acting Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome and Deputy

Permanent Representative to UNEP in Nairobi. He was lead negotiator of the Group of 77 and China for Climate Change under Pakistan's chairmanship in 2007 culminating at COP13 to UNFCCC in Bali in 2007. He joined UNEP in 2008. Mr. Jamil Ahmad holds a Master's Degree in Political Science.



**Mr. Marshall Moutenot**

Co-Founder, Upstream

After gaining a broad set of technical and product experience working at Microsoft, Twitter, Drift (business customer communication), and Wistia (analytics visualizations), Marshall co-founded the public benefit corporation Upstream with the broad goal to use technology to help the environment, particularly the underserved water space.

At the intersection of satellite imagery and machine learning, Upstream Tech monitors and measures patterns of freshwater consumption and availability from space. As freshwater uncertainty is exacerbated by climate disruption, conservation groups, municipalities, energy companies and water managers all leverage this platform to make more informed decisions to better conserve our freshwater ecosystems and ensure sufficient supply freshwater consumers. Upstream is now powering decision making at The Nature Conservancy and The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Freshwater Trust.





**Mr. Arno Zimmermann**

Co-founder, Coolar

Mr. Zimmermann is a co-founder of Coolar. He started the company together with CEO, Julia Römer in 2014 and worked on strategy and fundraising and is now responsible for product development. Arno especially focusses on translating user needs into technology requirements and vice versa. Aside from Coolar, Arno pursues a PhD on product development in energy and chemistry at TU Berlin and is currently a visiting researcher at MIT Energy Initiative in Boston. Coolar and Arno were won

several prestigious prizes such as the Start Up Energy Transition (SET), SEIF Social Impact, The Venture Finalist and Forbes 30 Under 30. Arno is driven by creating a better world by entrepreneurship.



**H.E. Mr. Plácido F. Gómez**

Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its 21st session

Mr. Gómez is Vice-Minister for Science and Technology, Dominican Republic. He graduated as Physical Sciences Technician and got his Bachelor's degree in Physics at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD). He finished his master's degree in Physics from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus (UPR-RP), with thesis entitled "Model of Localized Coupling for Scattering of Electrons by Diatomic Molecules", in which he developed a theoretical model whose scope was set clearly. Subsequently,

he obtained a doctoral degree in Science Education, also from the UPR-RP. He has conducted scientific research to develop mathematical models of physical processes, regarding the understanding of scientific concepts among students at different educational levels, as well as the creation and development of capacities in science and technology. He has interests in topics such as Philosophy and Sociology issues of Science. Mr. Gómez has published articles, and edited and published books and made numerous presentations. Through a grant from the Fulbright Foundation he had research experience in the Science Education Center, University of Texas at Austin. In the UPR-RP he created new courses, taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of Physical Sciences, Science Education and Epistemological Foundations of Physical Sciences, and coordinated the implementation of new academic programs. He has been lecture coordinator, academic director, and research and evaluation units' director. In UASD, he was Lab Coordinator, General Physics Courses Coordinator, and Department of Physics Director. In the UPR-RP, he was Coordinator of Physics and Physical Science Laboratories, Director of: the Physical Sciences Department, the Development of Thinking Skills Center, the Articulated Program of Engineering between UPR-RP and UPR-Mayagüez, the Program of Bachelor in General Studies, and of the Centre for Research and Curriculum Evaluation, and he was also Coordinator of Learning Assessment. He has taught in higher education institutions in DR, such as INTEC, World University, UNPHU, PUCMM and, in the latter coordinating the working group that created the Postgraduate Diploma and Master's Degree of Science for Teachers (first program of its kind in the DR). He has taught at Universidad Interamericana and Caribbean University, undergraduate and graduate level, and has served as Acting Dean and as Acting Minister repeatedly. As Undersecretary of State for Science and

Technology, DR, 2004, he was responsible for creating the basis for implementing the first fund for financing scientific-technological research in the DR (FONDOCYT). Mr. Gómez has made presentations in several countries and prestigious institutions, including forums in Colombia, Brazil, USA, Guatemala, Haiti, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the DR, and has made official representations in different countries, including Argentina, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Chile, France, Geneva, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Nicaragua, Panamá, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. He has also led the organization of more than thirty international, educational and scientific events. He was a member of the Area of Science and Society of CYTED, and member of the Committee on Science and Technology in Central America, Panama and DR (CTCAP). He is a Member of Numerous of the Academy of Sciences of the DR. And, he is currently Viceminister for Science and Technology at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT)-DR, and Professor at the UPR.