



## Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission

### *Fostering global solidarity and conflict sensitive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts*

19 November 2020 (10:00 - 13:00)

#### Biographies



**H.E. Munir Akram** is the seventy-sixth President of the Economic and Social Council. Ambassador Akram is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Akram assumed his position as Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, on November 1, 2019. Ambassador Munir Akram previously served as Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York for six years between 2002 and 2008, after serving as

Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva for seven years from 1995 to 2002. Between 1988 and 1992, Munir Akram was Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Council, Belgium and Luxemburg. During his term at the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram served twice as President of the Security Council in May 2003 and in May 2004; President of the Economic and Social Council in 2005; Chairman of the Group of 77 and China (developing countries) in 2007, and Facilitator on UN Administrative Reform in 2006. Among the positions he held in various intergovernmental organizations were: Member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament; Chairman of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body; President of the Conference on Disarmament (June 1996). Ambassador Akram joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1967, holding various positions in the Foreign Ministry as Additional Foreign Secretary and Director-General dealing with the United Nations. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Karachi. He is a prolific writer and has lectured and published several articles and papers on various strategic, political and economic issues. In recognition of his selfless service and outstanding performance in the field of diplomacy and foreign policy, he was conferred the Award of Hilal-i-Quaid-e-Azam by the President of Pakistan.



**H.E. Mr. Bob Rae** is the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. Before his appointment by the Government of Canada, Mr. Rae served as Canada's special envoy on humanitarian and refugee issues, continuing the important work that he began in 2017 as Canada's special envoy to Myanmar while also addressing other pressing humanitarian and refugee issues around the world. The former premier of Ontario and former interim leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Mr. Rae was elected 11 times to federal and provincial parliaments between 1978 and 2013. He stepped down as a member of Parliament in 2013 to return to legal practice and, in particular, to work with Indigenous communities and continue his work in education, governance and human rights. His passion for social justice dates back to his early days in student politics and community service. Before his appointment as permanent

representative, Mr. Rae was senior counsel at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP. In addition to his legal practice, he taught at the University of Toronto in the School of Public Policy and Governance, in the Faculty of Law and at Massey College and Victoria University, and he was a fellow of the Forum of Federations, Massey College and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. He has also worked as a mediator and arbitrator with ADR Chambers. A former

partner at Goodmans LLP, Mr. Rae led the restructuring of the Canadian Red Cross and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and chaired the board of the Royal Conservatory of Music. He is the author of 5 books and a number of government reports. Mr. Rae is a privy councillor, a companion of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario and has numerous awards and honorary degrees from institutions in Canada and around the world. He received his Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern History from the University of Toronto and a Master of Philosophy degree as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Along with music, reading and writing, he loves tennis, golf and fishing. He is married to Arlene Perly Rae. They have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.



**H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King** is the President of the Security Council, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. Ambassador King who comes to diplomacy from the private sector, has lived and worked in several Caribbean countries, the United States of America, and China. She is a small business owner, business strategist, the author of three books, and a management accountant with more than two decades of

professional experience. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and chemistry, is the immediate past chair of the Investment Promotions Agency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Invest SVG), and a former Honorary Consul for Portugal to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Since becoming Permanent Representative in September 2013, Ambassador King has held several leadership roles which include:

- Chair/Spokesperson of L69 (2016 – present), the largest reform group for the Security Council Reform of the United Nations.
- Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council for the period 2017-2018.
- Chair of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the 71st Session (2016 – 2017). At the time of her chairmanship, she was only the second woman to chair this committee in the history of the United Nations.
- Past chair of the Island Women Open Network (IWON) (2014 – July 2018). The IWON is tasked with ensuring gender-mainstreaming in the renewable energy sector of Small Island Developing States by building capacity at the grassroots and community level. The IWON is a part of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat platform. SIDS Dock is a UN registered SIDS International Organization.
- 74th President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council



**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed** is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment. Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Mohammed began her career working on the design of schools and clinics in Nigeria. She served as an advocate focused on increasing access to education and other social services, before moving into the public sector, where she rose to the position of adviser to three successive Presidents on poverty, public sector reform, and sustainable development. Ms. Mohammed has been conferred several honorary doctorates and has served as an adjunct professor, lecturing on international development. The recipient of various global awards, Ms. Mohammed has served on numerous international advisory boards and panels. She is the mother of six children and has two grandchildren.



**H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff** is the Incoming President of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations. Ambassador del Carmen Squeff has a Master's Degree in International Politics (Faculté des Sciences Sociales, Politiques et Economiques. Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2000), and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (School in Political Science and International Relations. National University of Rosario, 1989). She is a career member of the Foreign Service since 1993, when she graduated from the Foreign Service Institute of Argentina and has worked since then in the Undersecretary of Economic Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has served as Ambassador of Argentina in France (2013 - 2016), as Secondment to the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia from the Organization of American States (MAPP/OAS) (2016 - 2017), as Ambassador of Argentina in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2018 - 2019) and as Undersecretary for MERCOSUR and International Economic Negotiations (December 2019 to July 2020).



**Mr. Robert Piper** is the Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination Office, United Nations Development Coordination Office. Mr. Piper brings to the position nearly 30 years of experience in international development, humanitarian response and peacebuilding at the United Nations. He is currently the Head of the United Nations Development System Transition Team which was established to provide strategic leadership and oversight to all aspects of the repositioning of the United Nations development system. Prior to this position, he was Officer-in-Charge of the Bureau of External Relations at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Piper joined the United Nations in 1990 at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangkok. Since then, he has served the Organization in various capacities, including as Deputy

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, and United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, from 2015 to 2018; United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, from 2013 to 2015; United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Nepal, from 2008 to 2013; and for Kosovo between 2002 and 2004. He has held a number of other key positions with UNDP at Headquarters and in the field, including as inaugural Director for the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund and as Deputy Director for Emergency Response. Mr. Piper holds an honours degree in political science from the Australian National University and a certificate in French language and literature from the Sorbonne University. He was selected in 2004 as a World Fellow at Yale University. Born in 1966, he is married and has four children.



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



**Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma** currently serves as the Deputy Director at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) – a specialised agency of the African Union (AU). In this capacity, he works with AU Member States and other partners, leading a team of experts in securing Africa’s health through effective preparedness, early detection and rapid response to disease outbreaks and public health emergencies on the continent of Africa. Dr. Ahmed Ogwel has over 25 years of experience in public health as a social and developmental agenda at national, regional, and global levels. He has ably held senior positions in national government, the United Nations (UN) system, non-governmental organisations, and the AU. Dr. Ahmed Ogwel previously worked as an advisor to the World Health Organization Director General and worked at the World Health Organisation Regional office for Africa. Dr. Ahmed Ogwel is an alumnus of the University of Nairobi School of Public Health and the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen in Norway. He is married with children. Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention



**Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim** is an environmental activist, UN Sustainable Development Goal Advocate, and member of Chad’s pastoralist Mbororo community. Ms. Oumarou Ibrahim began advocating for Indigenous rights and environmental protection at age 16, founding the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) to introduce new income revenue activities for women and collaborative tools such as 3D participatory mapping to build sustainable ecosystems management and reduction of nature-based resource conflicts. Her vision is to grow support for both traditional knowledge and science to improve resilience to climate change especially for rural communities. She is a member of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) and served as co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change during the historic UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. She is dedicated to the protection of all Indigenous peoples, from the Congo to the Arctic, and the value of their knowledge in the fight against climate change. She advances environmental protection for Indigenous peoples by participating in

international policy dialogues held around the three Rio Conventions; Climate Change (UNFCCC), Biodiversity (CBD), and Desertification (UNCCD) pressuring governments to recognize land rights of Indigenous peoples and advance their solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation. Ibrahim’s work with indigenous communities at the local and global level has achieved broad recognition and support including, the Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award; the 2020 Refugee International’s Refugees International Holbrooke Award; the Daniel Mitterrand Prize; appointment as a UN SDG Advocate, Conservation International Board Member and Lui-Walton Senior Fellow; Member of the Earthshot Prize Council; EAT Advisory Board; named Ambassador of the EDEN Project; and National Geographic Explorer. She was recognized by BBC as a top 100 women leader and by TIME’s Women Leaders in Climate Change and Brut media produced her bio spot Here. Hindou’s TED talk on Indigenous knowledge meets science to solve climate change has surpassed more than 1 million views.