



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 DECEMBER

High-level Panel on “Accessible Cities for All: Smart and Inclusive Urban Planning”

Bios of Panellists

International Day of Persons with Disabilities
3 December 2018



Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Scientist in politics with a major in International Politics, she graduated magna cum laude with a dissertation on “The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities.” Her interest has always been people-centered in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held.

In addition to her work at the UN from 1986 to 1995, Ms. Bas held managerial roles from 1996 until 2011 in the private sector in Italy and was, inter alia, adviser for the Italian Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on human rights and social affairs.

Designated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the European Union Agency of Fundamental Rights; Special Adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini); at the European Union, she was representative on the topic “Tourism for All” on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of her country.



Mr. Victor Calise, Commissioner of the New York City Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, Victor Calise has been a tireless advocate for people with disabilities in both the Bloomberg and de Blasio Administrations. Responsible for ensuring that New York City is the most accessible city in the world, Calise advises the Mayor and agency partners on accessibility issues, spearheads public-private partnerships, and chairs the Accessibility Committee of the City’s Building Code. A dedicated public servant for over two decades, Commissioner Calise previously worked in the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation where he led efforts to make one of the largest and most complex parks systems in the world universally accessible by ensuring compliance with construction standards, managing facilities, and developing training materials.

Calise has facilitated relationships with businesses in a myriad of sectors including technology, finance, government, and healthcare. His leadership led to the creation of the NYC: ATWORK employment initiative—the first public-private partnership that directly connects jobseekers with disabilities and businesses. The Commissioner also consistently engages with innovators in cybersecurity, autonomous vehicle development, and digital accessibility in order to ensure that accessibility remains a priority in technological advancements. A recognized expert on diversity and inclusion, the Commissioner regularly consults with high-level stakeholders regarding accessibility. He is frequently invited to national and international conferences and has given numerous keynote speeches. Passionate about the human rights of people with disabilities, Commissioner Calise supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and works with international partners to ensure that people with disabilities are mainstreamed into society.

The Commissioner received a B.S. in Sports Management from St. John’s University and an M.A in Urban Affairs from Queens College, CUNY. Calise — an avid athlete — competed in the 1998 Paralympic Games in Nagano, Japan as a member of the first U.S. national sled hockey team. A native New Yorker, he lives on the Upper West Side with his wife and two daughters.



Ms. Mara Cristina Gabrilli is a Deputy (Congresswoman), The Chamber of Deputies, Brazil (2015-2018); Member of the National Council of Human Rights (since 2016); President of the Joint Parliamentary Front for Persons with Rare Diseases (since 2015); Member of the Parliamentary Front of the National Congress in Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (since 2011).

Future position/function:

United Nations: Gabrilli was elected member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019-2022);

Brazil: Gabrilli was elected senator for São Paulo Federal the next legislative period (2019-2026);

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

Second Vice-President of the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of The Chamber of Deputies (2017); Third Secretary of the National Congress (2015-2016); Member of several committees in The Chamber of Deputies;

Rapporteur of the Brazilian Law for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the Law that regulates the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Brazil; Rapporteur of the Law that established the National Policy for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Participation in NGO's Advisory Councils and in Official Missions and International Conferences; Host of Radio Programs, relating to persons with disabilities issues (2010-2015); Columnist: Author of columns in dozens of vehicles and sites, related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

She was Rapporteur of the LBI - Brazilian Law for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, a legal instrument that regulated the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities in Brazil. In 2005, she was the first officer of the Municipal Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities, a body until then unprecedented in Brazil. The work model implemented by Gabrilli became a reference in hundreds of Brazilian cities and states.



Mr. Raúl Krauthausen as communication manager and design thinker, has worked for more than 10 years in the internet and media business world. After his graduation in 2001, Raúl worked as an Online Content Developer at Apparat Multimedia GmbH, The Argonauten_G2 GmbH and at NEW DIGITAL GmbH. In 2002 he began studying social and business communication at the University of Arts Berlin.

In 2004 he co-founded the action group “Sozialhelden eV” with his cousin Jan Mörsch, an organisation to raise awareness of social issues and its structure. In 2005 Sozialhelden received first prize at the NEON / Smart-Ideas Competition, as well as the German Commitment Prize in 2009 and the German Citizens Inca Award in 2010. In 2007 he initiated the project “Pfandtästisch Helfen” and was awarded with the StartSocial prize from the Social Federal Government. The same year he also started working at the youth radio Fritz on RBB.

Since 2010 Raúl has been involved in the development of the internet platform Wheelmap.org, one of the inspired Wikipedia websites for wheelchair users and people with disabilities. It is the first online map of public places rated on accessibility and accessible design.



Ms. Elise Roy is a deaf, inclusive design strategist who helps companies analyze products, services, and programs from the vantage point of people with disabilities. She believes that the unique experiences of people with disabilities help us uncover hidden needs, wherein lie the most profound solutions for everyone. Roy draws on her 15+ years of working with the disability community, and her diverse career path as a lawyer who worked on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a marketing manager who worked on the historical 2008 U.S. election campaign ads, and a product designer to shape solutions for her clients. An internationally recognized speaker, Roy has given talks all over the world including

at Microsoft, SXSW, AIGA, NASA and the World Bank. Her TEDx talk, “When We Design for Disability, We All Benefit,” has over 1.2 million views. Her company, Elise Roy & Associates was founded in 2016 and even though it is still in its infancy, it has attracted clients that include Fortune 500 Companies such as Google, Fannie Mae and Marriott, as well as, organizations such as World Vision and the OECD.



Ms. Frances West is a global advisory company working with public, private, non-profit and start-ups to operationalize inclusion as a core business imperative to drive disruptive innovation.

Founded by Frances West, an internationally recognized thought leader, keynote speaker, strategy advisor and women-in-technology executive. Frances has held many global executive positions from marketing, sales to business development and strategic partner management. She was IBM’s first Chief Accessibility Officer and received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts in Boston for her work in accessibility research and digital inclusion.

She delivers thought-provoking keynotes that influence leaders, impact businesses and inspire organizational transformation.

She provides advisory services, speaking engagements and creates strategic partnerships through high impact global initiatives.



Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, is an international lawyer with 22 years' experience. She joined the ITU in September 2017 as its Representative to the UN in New York. Previously, Ms. Wynhoven 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. Ms. Wynhoven 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. Ms. Wynhoven also led legal affairs and oversaw policy development and implementation of the UN Global Compact's integrity measures. Ms. Wynhoven'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, Ms. Wynhoven worked in law firms and government human rights agencies in Australia and the US and for the OECD on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Ms. Wynhoven 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, Ms. Wynhoven 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.



Mr. John Paul Farmer is the Director of Microsoft Cities, leading a cross-functional team to design and deploy technologies that make communities more livable, more productive, and more sustainable. John's work on rapid reskilling has given adults in-demand tech skills that quintuple their earning power. His team's use of artificial intelligence has removed language barriers to government services. As an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International

and Public Affairs, he has helped the United Nations improve how it uses technology and innovation in peacekeeping. As the Founder & CEO of The Innovation Project, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, John spreads innovation best practices globally.

Previously, John served as the Senior Advisor for Innovation at the White House under President Barack Obama, where he co-founded and led the Presidential Innovation Fellows program to attract top private sector change-makers for focused tours of duty in government. The program has since been enshrined in law and catalyzed a movement of civically engaged technologists, data scientists, and entrepreneurs using their skills in the public interest through 18F and the U.S. Digital Service, as well as similar initiatives in governments around the world. John's work has been featured in Fortune, Forbes, Fast Company, WIRED, the Washington Post, TechCrunch, and the Harvard Business Review.

Prior to the U.S. government, John envisioned and built new business units in the private sector. He has experience in the technology, finance, and healthcare sectors. He played professional baseball in the minor league systems of the Atlanta Braves and Los Angeles Dodgers. John holds an M.B.A. with honors from the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and an A.B. with honors from Harvard University.



Mr. Albert Manero, is the President of Limbitless Solutions non-profit, a direct support organization for the University of Central Florida. Limbitless Solutions is an engineering innovation company that helps children in need through the design and delivery of 3-D printed bionic limbs. The team uses additive manufacturing (3D printing) to design artistic & personalized bionics that maximize expression and function, and donates each devices to families in need. He holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Central Florida.

Albert was a Fulbright Scholar to Germany during his doctoral research, and completed the Mirzayan science policy fellowship with the National Academy of Engineering. His research looks to advance accessibility to bionics while leading their mixed learning laboratory for interdisciplinary student research at UCF.



Mr. Asher Remy-Toledo is Director and Founder of [Hyphen Hub](#), a New York-based non-profit organization that explores, promotes, and presents radical new visions of the future through the integration of art and emerging technologies.

Asher is the curator and co-organizer of the [Festival de la Imagen](#) in Colombia, a 21-year old electronic arts festival organized by Colombia's Ministry of Culture and the Universidad de Caldas. Asher is also a consultant for the Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano's new media department in Bogotá which is developing prosthetics using artificial intelligence (A.I.) as a way to find affordable solutions for people affected by years of conflict. Asher has extensive experience working with city governments to develop cultural programs that incorporate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) as well as with a global network of innovators to present, teach, and perform for a wide range of audiences.

Asher is also Artistic Advisor for [Broadway Asia International](#), a New York based theater and entertainment company that produces large-scale theatrical productions across the Asia Pacific region, consulting on artistic projects that incorporate new and emerging technologies.

Other initiatives include co-founding [No Longer Empty](#), a non-profit arts organization based in New York that takes over empty spaces in the city and creates site specific installations. The organization's educational programs for underserved schools have inspired New York City's youth and families to share their voices through collective storytelling and to re-imagine public space through art.

In addition, Asher co-curated the Liverpool Biennial in 2010 was partner and artistic director of the Arts Hub of New York's Creative Tech Week (a premier nexus for showcasing digital technology from the worlds of both art and industry).

