


**COMMISSION for
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

United Nations Headquarters, New York

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United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (61ST SESSION)
LIST OF OPENING SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Opening session

Monday, 6 February 2023, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Conference Room 4

- **H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**, Chair, Commission for Social Development
- **H. E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, President, Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- **Ms. Jean Quinn**, Chair, NGO Committee on Social Development
- **Mr. Rafiu Lawal** (Male, Nigeria), Founder and Executive Director, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (AG)
- **Ms. Frances Zainoeddin**, Representative of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
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Introduction of SG reports: (**Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, DISD)

Bios of the speakers



H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani is the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of Commission for Social Development. Prior her appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2013, Ms. Al-Thani was her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, beginning December 2011. From August 2011 to October 2011, she served as Ambassador to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Deputy Permanent Representative at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from May 2010 to July 2011, having previously been Minister Plenipotentiary from June 2009 to April 2010 and Counsellor from April 2007 to May 2009. From September 2006 to March 2007, Ms. Al-Thani was the Director of the Division of the Rights of the Child in the General Secretariat of Qatar's Supreme Council for Family Affairs, having served as Acting Director between June 2004 and August 2006. From October 2003 to May 2004, she was a Senior Specialist in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council's Department of International Relations. Born in Doha in 1974, Ms. Al-Thani holds a Master of Arts in international studies and diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in economics from Qatar University.



H. E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva was elected the seventy-eight President of the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2022. Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York. She assumed her duties as Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations on 16 February 2021. Before her appointment, Ms. Stoeva headed the Department of Economic, Financial and Administrative Affairs of the United Nations, in Bulgaria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2016 to 2019, prior to which she was Acting Deputy Permanent Representative and Counsellor, responsible for issues including international security and disarmament. Prior to her posting in New York, Ms. Stoeva headed the Foreign Ministry's Department of Arms Control and Non-Proliferation from 2013 to 2014, and the Department of International Development Cooperation from 2012 until 2013. She first joined the Ministry in 2002 and has worked extensively on international security issues with an emphasis on arms control, non-proliferation and United Nations issues. Ms. Stoeva holds master's degrees in European politics and government from the London School of Economics and in political science from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".



Mr. Li Junhua is Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Li brings to the position perspectives and visions on fostering multilateral economic and social cooperation, with a commitment to engage with all parties to further implement the 2030 Agenda including dedication to serve member states. He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS etc. As Under-Secretary-General for Economic

and Social Affairs, Mr. Li 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. In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Li 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.



Jean Quinn, DW is the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development and the Executive Director of UNANIMA International. A member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom, Jean also has a background in nursing and studied Family Therapy, Addiction Studies, and Social Housing Studies with the Irish Council for Social Housing. She also Studied Theology and Philosophy with Milltown Institute in Dublin. As well as holding many Congregational and Professional leadership roles throughout her career, Jean has been

actively involved in international social justice through a range of facets for many years. Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin and is the Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland. Her vision and leadership brought strength and growth to Sophia, which is now celebrating its 25th year as an organization committed to providing a holistic approach in supporting people, specifically women and children on their journey from homelessness. Jean was a member of the UNANIMA International Board in 2016 and completed an internship that year also. Since joining the UNANIMA International team as the Executive Director in 2017, Jean's passion for justice, peace and Integrity of Creation have continuously been utilized in her international advocacy.



Mr. Rafiu Lawal is the Founder and Executive Director of Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, an organization building the resilience of people against violent philosophies and promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. He is also the convener of the Nigeria Youth 4 Peace Initiative (NYPI), a movement of young people advocating and promoting peace in Nigeria. He is also the founder of Naija Peace Talks-an initiative Amplifying values of peace in Nigeria. Through his leadership, over ten

thousand youth have been empowered in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, social development through capacity-building training, workshops, and community sensitization. Rafiu is a passionate peace advocate with over four years of experience in peace, security, and sustainable development and currently volunteers as the Regional Coordinator of UNOY Peacebuilders in West and Central Africa.



Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Representative of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York

Ms. Frances Zainoeddin left Australia in 1970 to work at the United Nations, New York – initially in the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs – and ended her career, 31 years later, as Deputy Budget Director of the United Nations Programme Planning and Budget Division. Upon retirement, Ms. Zainoeddin joined the NGO community in order to further promote the ideals of the United Nations, with a specific interest in gender and ageing issues. Her knowledge of the United Nations system, policies and procedures, has been particularly useful to NGOs that participate in deliberations in intergovernmental meetings. Ms. Zainoeddin is currently Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing and is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She was a key participant in the establishment of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing in 2013, as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders involved, as civil society participants, in sustainable development issues and was actively engaged in the United Nations intergovernmental negotiations leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring inclusion of the concerns of older persons. She is the UN Focal Point in New York for the Stakeholder Group on Ageing. Ms. Zainoeddin is also actively involved in issues concerning the rights of older persons, particularly in the context of efforts being made by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations to elaborate a convention to protect and promote the rights of older persons.

**High-level panel discussion on the priority theme
“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of
overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19
pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development”**

Monday, 6 February 2023 (3:00pm – 6:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Keynote speaker



Ms. Manuela Tomei has been Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2013. She has held various posts at ILO Headquarters in Geneva and its Regional Office in Peru. She was lead coordinator of the preparatory work that culminated in the adoption of the last two ILO Conventions, namely, C.190 on violence and harassment in the world of work in 2019, and C.189 on decent work for domestic workers in 2011. Together with UN Women and OECD, the ILO established and launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2017 the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) to contribute to the realization of SDG 8.5, in which Ms. Tomei played a key role. She led the work that resulted in the adoption by the 2021 International Labour Conference of the Resolution on inequalities and the world of work. She has written and provided policy advice on a range of subjects, including gender, poverty and work, informal and non-standard forms of employment, wages and the gender pay gap.

Panellists



Minister Rafael Eugenio Rodríguez Pellecer graduated as a lawyer and notary public from Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala City and has a master's degree in Governance and Public Administration from the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. Mr. Rodríguez was the Director of the National Office for Civil Service (ONSEC in Spanish). He has experience as a technical advisor to various Guatemalan Congressional Committees and with that experience, was also a legal advisor in the USAID/Checchi Security and Justice Program. In addition, Mr. Rodríguez taught in the Public Administration master's degree program of the National Institute of Public Affairs (INAP in Spanish) and was a consultant in a project which led to reforms in the Civil Service and changes in the regulations for public management services. Mr. Rodríguez was named Minister of Labor and Social Welfare in July 2020 and has been in charge of the Ministry since then. His responsibilities include the Employment Department which manages the Seasonal Labor Program.



Mr. Dirk Andreas Zetzsche is Professor of Financial Law at the University of Luxembourg. Prof. Zetzsche holds the ADA Chair in Financial Law (inclusive finance) since March 2016 and leads the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance's House of Sustainable Governance & Markets. His research focuses on inclusive and sustainable finance as well as financial and corporate law, in particular on payment and banking systems, collective investment schemes, institutional investments and FinTech/RegTech/CorpTech. Prof. Zetzsche is consistently listed for the last three years on SSRN (<http://ssrn.com/author=357808>) in the Top 10 law authors globally, measured by downloads in the last 12 months. He is the author of more than 350 publications, including some globally leading articles and treatises on sustainable finance law and regulation, collective investment schemes, FinTech/RegTech, corporate governance as well as cross-border financial services. Prof. Zetzsche has held presentations and lectures at leading universities around the world, for instance (in alphabetical order) Cambridge University, Columbia University, Harvard University, LSE, National University of Singapore, Oxford University, University of Chicago, University College London, University of Hong Kong, University of Paris I / Sorbonne, University of Zürich, UNSW Sydney, Yale University. He regularly cooperates with international development organizations and NGOs, including ADA, the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the German GIZ, the Toronto Centre, the Worldbank, the United Nations, and the Carnegie Establishment on International Peace, among others.



Ms. Céline Thévenot works as a senior economist in the Fiscal Affairs Division, Spending Policy Department. Her work focuses on inequality, social protection, labor markets, and food security. Prior to joining the IMF, she was the Head of Labour market and employment policy Unit, Direction générale du Trésor (French Treasury). Between 2014-2018 she worked as policy analyst and economist, expert in inequality and social mobility with OECD and between 2011-2014, she worked as socio-economic economist-analyst at the European Commission. Ms. Thévenot holds a Master's degree in statistics and economics from Ensaie ParisTech and a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies, statistique mathématique from the Université de Rennes.



Dr. Rose Ngugi is the Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and the Secretary to the Board. Rose is involved in providing technical guidance and capacity building on policy and strategy formulation to the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders, with the overall aim of contributing to the achievement of national development goals. Before then, she was a Senior Advisor in the Office of Executive Director, Africa Group 1, International Monetary Fund, and Washington D.C. Rose has been a member of Central Bank of Kenya, Monetary Policy Committee and has vast teaching experience in the University of Nairobi, School of Economics. Rose has published widely. Her research interests are in public policy, financial sector, investments, reforms and institutional issues. She holds a PhD from Business School Birmingham University, UK specializing in Financial Markets, a Masters and Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Ms. Paola Simonetti is the Director of the Equality Department at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Her work is aimed at ensuring that people can work and live in conditions characterized by equality, dignity and justice. In this position she leads trade unions actions in key areas such as economic integration of women, fighting gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work and organising against discrimination and exclusion of marginalized workers. Ms. Simonetti promotes trade unions engagement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national, regional and global levels with multilateral institutions such as the UN, ILO, OECD, and the EU, as well as, with Civil Society Organizations' networks.

Moderator



Ms. Carmela I. Torres is the Undersecretary of Employment and Human Resources Development of Department of Labor and Employment in Philippines. She has technical specialization on the following themes: (i) employment: employment policy and strategy development, planning and implementation, monitoring, (ii) facilitating employment through public employment services: on the core areas of job search, placement, employment, career and vocational counseling, developing and implementing active labour market programmes, facilitating employment for target groups like employed youths, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, people in rural communities, keeping in mind that the two beneficiaries of employment services are the job seekers and employers; and (iii) improving skills and employability: skills development and technical/vocational education and training; skills development as a component of national employment policy frameworks. She has over 25 years of experience at international level: working with ILO; collaborating with ILO member states and Governments, with ASEAN member states, workers and employers organizations; stakeholders of developing countries; and development partners (EU, SDC, Japan-MoHLW, JICA, Korean MOL, HRD Korea, KOICA, Sweden-SIDA, ADB, PROC-MoHRSS). Provided technical guidance and support to developing countries in the above technical areas. She has over 20 years of experience in Philippine

Government working in the same technical areas including labour policy administration, policy research, labour statistics and working conditions; developed tools and managed offices and staff. She also has over 10 years of experience as professional lecturer in graduate schools. She also managed offices with over 40 staff and oversaw employment, skills development, policy research and labour related work areas.

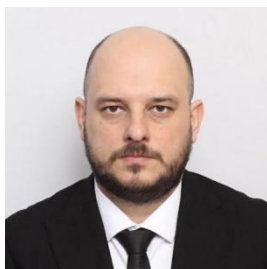
**Ministerial Forum on the priority theme
“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of
overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19
pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development”**

Tuesday, 7 February 2023 (10:00am – 1:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Panellists



H.E. Ms. Hanna Sarkkinen is Finland’s Minister of Social Affairs and Health. The Minister of Social Affairs and Health deals with matters related to social security, pharmaceutical services, insurance markets, housing allowances, pensions and labour protection. Sarkkinen is a second-term Member of Parliament from Oulu who was elected to Parliament in 2015. In Parliament, Sarkkinen has served on the Commerce Committee, the Social Affairs and Health Committee and the Grand Committee, which also handles EU affairs. She has been active in local politics in Oulu since 2009. She held senior positions in her party from 2013 to 2019, first as Chair of the Party Council and later as Deputy Chair of the Party. Sarkkinen’s political thinking is guided by social and economic justice, equality between people, and eco-logical sustainability. Important political priorities for the Minister include mitigating poverty, reforming the social security system, reducing unemployment, safeguarding fair working conditions, strengthening mental health and wellbeing, and taking sustainable development into account in all political decision-making. Hanna Sarkkinen holds a Master of Arts degree. She graduated in 2014 from the University of Oulu, where she majored in the history of science and ideas and minored in management, political science, economics and communications. She graduated from Oulun Lyseo Upper Secondary School in 2007. Sarkkinen was born in 1988, grew up in Oulunsalo and has roots in Northern Finland. Today, she has a home in Oulu and in Helsinki, and her life is divided between the two cities. Her family includes her spouse and one child, born in 2019.



H.E. Mr. Admir Adrović is the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare in the Government of Montenegro. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics with the degree in Finance and Banking. In career so far, from 2007- 2013 he served as secretary in the MP Club of Bosniak Party in the Parliament of Montenegro. In two mandates, during 2013- 2020 he was advisor to the Vice Prime Minister in charge of regional development. In the process of negotiation with the EU he had an active roll, especially in chapter 22- Regional Policy and coordination of structural instruments. He took part in developing key strategic documents of the Government in economy field. Beside, acted as President of the Steering Committee of the Fund for the Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights of Montenegro as well as former President of Social Council of Montenegro. He actively promotes and protects human rights in Montenegro.



H.E. Ms. Mariam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad is the Minister of Social Development and the Family of the State of Qatar since October 2021. In 2006, she was appointed as a member of the Childhood Committee at the Supreme Council for the Family Affairs and from 2008, she served as Acting Executive Director for the Childhood Cultural Center and then helmed the Media and Communication Department of the Social Rehabilitation Center (Owain). In 2013, she was assigned to lead the regional advocacy campaign for Education Above All Foundation. Following this role, she undertook the executive leadership for the Orphan Care Center, Dreama (2016-2021). In 2021, she was appointed as an Executive Director of Administration and Finance Division at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DIFGS), in addition to being a member of the Advisory Board for the School of Public Administration and Development Economics (SPADE) at DIFGS. She has been awarded the title of International Ambassador of Orphans twice in a row and received the International Social Responsibility Excellence Award in 2021.



Hon. Doreen Sefuke Mwamba is the Minister of Community Development and Social Services in the Republic of Zambia. Hon Doreen Mwamba is a nominated Member of Parliament and was appointed Minister on 7th September, 2021. She is the National Chairperson for Women's affairs in the United Party for National Development (UPND). Prior to joining politics, she was an entrepreneur in the hospitality business and construction industry. As the Minister of Community Development and Social Services, she is playing a key role in policy formulation and legislation for Social Protection Programmes aimed at uplifting the living standards of the poor and vulnerable groups and individuals such as persons with disabilities, women, the chronically ill and orphans and vulnerable children. She is passionate about helping the poor and vulnerable groups and individuals especially women and children and would like to see more women empowered with entrepreneurial skills, participating in Agricultural economic and income generating activities. She would like more access to education for the Girl Child and improved nutrition for all Zambians. Key to programme delivery is mindset change for a united Zambia. She believes that Zambia can become self-reliant and free from Corruption, Poverty, Domestic and Political Violence.



H.E. Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernández was born in November 1963, in San José, Costa Rica. He is a career diplomat of the Costa Rican foreign service since 1998. He has extensive experience in multilateral affairs. He has studies in Law and International Relations. Mr. Guillermet-Fernández was Deputy Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations at the New York headquarters. From 2016 to July 2018, he served as Director General of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. Previously, from July 2015 to September 2016, he served as Deputy Director General for Foreign Policy. His last post abroad was as Costa Rica's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva (2010 to 2015). Previously in 2009 he served at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York as Deputy Permanent Representative and Political Coordinator during Costa Rica's membership in the Security

Council (2008-2009). From 2006 to 2008, Ambassador Guillermet-Fernández served as Director General of Foreign Policy after working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and in Santiago de Chile as Regional Representative a.i. of the High Commissioner. From 1993 to 1998, he was an official of the Costa Rican Ombudsman's Office at the beginning of the institution's creation. During his diplomatic career, he served as Chairman-Rapporteur of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Peace, among others. In addition, he collaborates extensively with different universities and think tanks and writes for peer review magazines around the world. He is a specialist in human rights, peace and security, international humanitarian law, international law, humanitarian disarmament and a great connoisseur of multilateral dynamics and in particular the United Nations.



H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov is the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population in Azerbaijan. He holds a Master's degree from American University (Washington DC, USA) and Ph.D. in international law. Mr. Karimov began his career at the US-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce (USA) in 2001. Later he worked in Dept. of Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Azerbaijani embassy in Switzerland. Then he continued his career at Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah, S. Arabia) in 2007-2010. Mr. Karimov led foreign investments and economic relations departments at the Ministry of Economic Development. Before joining Ministry of Social Protection in 2018, he worked as a key expert in international projects. Mr. Karimov served as a member of the Azerbaijani Bar Association, co-founder of Azerbaijan-British Lawyers Association and vice-president of the Azerbaijani-Italian Chamber of Commerce. He lectured international law courses for Masters' students.



Ms. Carmela I. Torres has technical specialization on the following themes: (i) employment: employment policy and strategy development, planning and implementation, monitoring, (ii) facilitating employment through public employment services: on the core areas of job search, placement, employment, career and vocational counseling, developing and implementing active labour market programmes, facilitating employment for target groups like employed youths, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, people in rural communities, keeping in mind that the two beneficiaries of employment services are the job seekers and employers; and (iii) improving skills and employability: skills development and technical/vocational education and training; skills development as a component of national employment policy frameworks. She has over 25 years of experience at international level: working with ILO; collaborating with ILO member states and Governments, with ASEAN member states, workers and employers organizations; stakeholders of developing countries; and development partners (EU, SDC, Japan-MoHLW, JICA, Korean MOL, HRD Korea, KOICA, Sweden-SIDA, ADB, PROC-MoHRSS). Provided technical guidance and support to developing countries in the above technical areas. She has over 20 years of experience in Philippine Government working in the same technical areas including labour policy administration, policy research, labour statistics and working conditions; developed tools and managed offices and staff. She also has over 10 years of experience as professional lecturer in graduate schools. She also managed offices with over

40 staff and oversee employment, skills development, policy research and labour related work areas.

Moderator



H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani is the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of Commission for Social Development. Prior her appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2013, Ms. Al-Thani was her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, beginning December 2011. From August 2011 to October 2011, she served as Ambassador to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Deputy Permanent Representative at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from May 2010 to July 2011, having previously been Minister Plenipotentiary from June 2009 to April 2010 and Counsellor from April 2007 to May 2009. From September 2006 to March 2007, Ms. Al-Thani was the Director of the Division of the Rights of the Child in the General Secretariat of Qatar's Supreme Council for Family Affairs, having served as Acting Director between June 2004 and August 2006. From October 2003 to May 2004, she was a Senior Specialist in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council's Department of International Relations. Born in Doha in 1974, Ms. Al-Thani holds a Master of Arts in international studies and diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in economics from Qatar University.

High-level panel discussion on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 (10:00am – 1:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Opening Remarks



H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani is the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of Commission for Social Development. Prior her appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2013, Ms. Al-Thani was her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, beginning December 2011. From August 2011 to October 2011, she served as Ambassador to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Deputy Permanent Representative at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from May 2010 to July 2011, having previously been Minister Plenipotentiary from June 2009 to April 2010 and Counsellor from April 2007 to May 2009. From September 2006 to March 2007, Ms. Al-Thani was the Director of the Division of the Rights of the Child in the General Secretariat of Qatar's Supreme Council for Family Affairs, having served as Acting Director between June 2004 and August 2006. From October 2003 to May 2004, she was a Senior Specialist in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council's Department of International Relations. Born in Doha in 1974, Ms. Al-Thani holds a Master of Arts in international studies and diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in economics from Qatar University.



Mr. Li Junhua is Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Li brings to the position perspectives and visions on fostering multilateral economic and social cooperation, with a commitment to engage with all parties to further implement the 2030 Agenda including dedication to serve member states. He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS etc. As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li 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. In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Li 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.

Keynote Speaker



Mr. Alexandre Sidorenko, Senior Advisor of European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and former Chair of DESA Programme on Ageing (EEG) Alexandre is an international expert on policy and programmes on ageing, including advisory services and training in Eastern European countries and countries of the former Soviet Union. Previously, he was the Head of the United Nations Programme on Ageing. His major responsibilities during his 21 years of work for the United Nations had involved the coordination of the United Nations activities in the area of ageing, including promoting and monitoring the international policy and programmes on ageing. Sidorenko was leading the substantive preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain in 2002 and its follow up activities.

Panellists



Ms. Emem Omokaro is the Director General of the National Senior Citizens Centre in Nigeria. Prior to this position, Emem was a policy analyst who had worked extensively in Nigeria to establish strategic participatory platforms and mechanisms that have advanced national action on ageing in the field of policy, education and research. Her pro-active stakeholders' engagements have built alliances, enhanced multi-sectoral institutional capacity and fueled momentum in advocacy, legislation and ageing mainstreaming. She holds a Ph.D. in Development Sociology from the University of Calabar, Nigeria, with an award-winning dissertation that interrogated the quality of care of Nigeria's older persons.



Mr. Alfredo Ferrante is the Chair of the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA), an intergovernmental body, which is subsidiary to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Alfredo has worked in the Italian Government since 2002 as Head of Unit. He is interested in several issues at national and international level such as public policies in social affairs such as policies for persons with disabilities, sustainability and social responsibility as well as the reform of public sector. Alfredo was the former Chair of the Committee of the rights of persons with disabilities (CAHDPH) at the Council of Europe.



H.E. Mrs. Paula Narváez Ojeda, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and Vice President of ECOSOC

Her Excellency Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and the Vice president of ECOSOC. She presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 8 June 2022. Before this latest appointment, Ms. Narváez was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala, from February to May 2022. She also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2018, Ambassador Narváez was Minister Secretary General of Government, and she served as a Presidential Adviser from 2014 to 2016. From 2012 until 2014, she was a Latin America and Caribbean Section Program Specialist at UN-Women, based in New York. Following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in Chile in May 2008, Ambassador Narváez served as the delegate of then-President Michelle Bachelet to the Chaitén Volcano Emergency, from 2008 to 2009. She has also held a number of other Government positions. Ambassador Narváez earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in the United States; a master's degree in economics and regional management from the Universidad Austral de Chile; © Picture – Gobierno de Chile and a degree in psychology from the Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello, also in Chile.



Mr. Mohammad Meqdady is the Secretary-General of the National Council for Family Affairs in Jordan. In his work, Mohamed focuses on women and their economic empowerments as well as on early childhood issues. The Council, under Mohammed's leadership, was the public authority that led the development of the Older Persons Strategy in Jordan.



H.E. Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi is the Minister of Gender and Social Affairs in the Maldives and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal. She served in various positions as the Ambassador/High Commissioner of Maldives in India, as well as Minister of Gender and Family between 2005 and 2008, in addition to several other civil and public affairs positions throughout her career. Aishath's experience includes positions as Chair of Gender Equality Council, Chair of Children's Home Governing Board, Chair of the Council for the Rights of the Child, Member of the United Nations Task Force on Youth and Adolescents and as Member of the United Nations Task Force on Gender. Aishath served as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.



Ms. Carole Osero-Ageng'o is a representative of HelpAge International, a member organization of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP). The Global Alliance is a network of over 400 organisations from across the world who have come together to strengthen and promote the rights of older persons. The mission of the Global Alliance is to support and enhance civil society's engagement at national, regional and international levels on the need for a new international instrument on the rights of older persons.

GAROP seeks a world in which older persons live free from discrimination and are able to fully enjoy their rights. GAROP's core values are partnership with, inclusion of, and the promotion of participation by older people in decisions that affect their lives. The Global Alliance respects the rights of all persons regardless of age, race, color, disability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, political views, national or social origin, class and birth or property status. Carole is a multilingual human rights lawyer and gender expert. In her current role of Lead, Global Initiatives & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International, she continues to lead in policy advocacy for the rights of older persons in Africa and linking this to strategic initiatives at global level for greater impact.



Ms. Heidrun Mollenkopf is a sociologist and a gerontologist from Germany. She was one of the first sociologists to focus scientific research on the use of technology to improve the quality of life in old age. She is a board member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO). At the age of 82 years, Heidrun co-lead the organizing committee of the first Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research, entitled "A fulfilling life throughout the life-

course: a joint effort of civil society and research in policy making.

Closing



H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani is the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Chair of Commission for Social Development. Prior her appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2013, Ms. Al-Thani was her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, beginning December 2011. From August 2011 to October 2011, she served as Ambassador to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Deputy Permanent Representative at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in

New York from May 2010 to July 2011, having previously been Minister Plenipotentiary from June 2009 to April 2010 and Counsellor from April 2007 to May 2009. From September 2006 to March 2007, Ms. Al-Thani was the Director of the Division of the Rights of the Child in the General Secretariat of Qatar's Supreme Council for Family Affairs, having served as Acting Director between June 2004 and August 2006. From October 2003 to May 2004, she was a Senior Specialist in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council's Department of International Relations. Born in Doha in 1974, Ms. Al-Thani holds a Master of Arts in international studies and diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in economics from Qatar University.

Moderator



Mr. Daniel Zavala Porrás (Male, Costa Rica), Minister Counselor,
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations and Vice-Chair
of the sixty-first session

Panel discussion on emerging issues
“Addressing the social impacts of multi-faceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 (3:00pm – 6:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Panellists



Ambassador Luciana Tito has been the Head of the Advisory Cabinet Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Presidency of the Nation, since 2021. Previously, she was the Head of the Advisory Cabinet Unit for the Head of the Cabinet of Ministers, Presidency of the Nation. Before that she worked in the Communication and Press office for the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing and the Ministry of the Interior and Transportation, Presidency of the Nation. She also worked as a freelance consultant in communication and public management and as a technical supervisor of public policies for the State Modernization Project under the Head of the Cabinet of Ministers, Presidency of the Nation. Ambassador Tito holds a Master in Image Advice and Political Consulting from the Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain and a graduate degree in political science from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Ms. Eleni Nikolaidou is the Head of Directorate of Development Cooperation Policy, Hellenic Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece. Previously she served as Special Adviser to the Minister of Economy, Minister of Transport and Communications and Minister of Education. Ms. Nikolaidou worked as senior consultant at the KPMG Peat Marwick, Athens and later became the Director of International Relations Department Hellenic Federation of Enterprises. She started her career as financial economist at Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, Financial Advisory Service, United Kingdom. Ms. Nikolaidou has a M.A. in International Business and Economic Development from University of Reading, England, a M.A. in Accounting and Finance from London School of Economics, University of London and a B.Sc. in Economics from University of London.

Ms. Maha Hamad Alattiya (Female, Qatar), International Projects Manager, Ministry of Social development and family, the State of Qatar (APG)
Ms. Alattiya worked previously at Qatar Fund for Development as Partnership officer for 2 years and before that she was an Academic advisor at a high school for 2 years. She Graduated from Saint Louis University in Madrid with an International Business major and have completed Rising Leaders program at the Qatar Leadership Center in 2021.

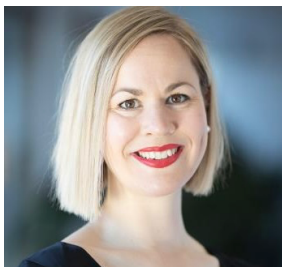


Dr. Anthony Mveyange is the newly appointed Global Public Investment Lead for Africa for Development Initiatives and currently transitioning out as the Executive Director of the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), a pan-African organization operating in over 26 countries in Africa advancing research and training excellence in Public Policy and Governance. Anthony is a passionate Tanzanian development economist whose research and policy interests include (but not limited to) inequality, poverty, health and education, agriculture, natural resources, international trade, trade policy, economic growth, and development in Africa. Anthony has vast experience in designing and evaluating projects and programmes, policy advisory, designing and overseeing thematic research-related initiatives in Africa.



Ms. Lara Hicks is the Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative for UNANIMA International, a nongovernmental organization with advocacy priorities centered on women and children experiencing homelessness, migration, gender issues, and the environment. She also serves on the Executive Committee for the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD) as the Chair of the 2023 Civil Society Forum. She completed a Master of Public Administration degree in 2021 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in 2020 as a University Scholar (Syracuse University). While completing her graduate coursework at Syracuse, Lara interned with UNANIMA International and contributed to climate-displacement research and advocacy efforts for events such as the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. Before her time at UNANIMA, Lara was an Assistant Manager for Adult and Family Programs for a refugee resettlement nonprofit organization and interned at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Lara’s recent contributions to different United Nations processes include submissions to the UN Expert Group Meeting “Megatrends & Families: Focus on Digital Technologies, Migration and Urbanization” and participating as a panelist for an official COP27 side event “Catholic Perspectives at COP27 | Climate and Biodiversity Justice from the Faith Perspective: What’s Next?”

Moderator



H.E. Ms. Hanna Sarkkinen is Finland’s Minister of Social Affairs and Health. The Minister of Social Affairs and Health deals with matters related to social security, pharmaceutical services, insurance markets, housing allowances, pensions and labour protection. Sarkkinen is a second-term Member of Parliament from Oulu who was elected to Parliament in 2015. In Parliament, Sarkkinen has served on the Commerce Committee, the Social Affairs and Health Committee and the Grand Committee, which also handles EU affairs. She has been active in local politics in Oulu since 2009. She held senior positions in her party from 2013 to 2019, first as Chair of the Party Council and later as Deputy Chair of the Party. Sarkkinen’s political thinking is guided by social and economic justice, equality between people, and eco-logical sustainability. Important political priorities for the Minister include mitigating poverty, reforming the social security system, reducing unemployment, safeguarding fair working conditions, strengthening mental health and wellbeing, and taking sustainable development into account in all political decision-making. Hanna Sarkkinen holds a Master of Arts degree. She graduated in 2014 from the University of Oulu, where she majored in the history of science and

ideas and minored in management, political science, economics and communications. She graduated from Oulun Lyseo Upper Secondary School in 2007. Sarkkinen was born in 1988, grew up in Oulunsalo and has roots in Northern Finland. Today, she has a home in Oulu and in Helsinki, and her life is divided between the two cities. Her family includes her spouse and one child, born in 2019.

**Panel Discussion: Interactive dialogue with
senior officials of the UN
System on the priority theme**

Thursday, 9 February 2023 (10:00am – 1:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Panellists



Ms. Olga Algayerova, the Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) took office on 1 June 2017. Ms. Algayerova brings to the position a combination of leadership and diplomatic skills with deep knowledge of the region with its challenges and opportunities and a strong focus on building and nurturing partnerships among key stakeholders with the United Nations. Prior to her appointment, she served as Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria (since 2012). She was previously President, Slovak Millennium Development Goals (2010-2012); State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2006-2010) and Corporate Export Manager, Zentiva International, a.s. (2004-2006). Born in 1959, Ms. Algayerova holds a Master in Contemporary Diplomacy from Malta University, a Master in Business Administration from The Open University Business School, United Kingdom and a Diploma in Engineer of Economy from the University of Economics Business Faculty, Bratislava. [joining via pre-recorded message].



Simone Cecchini is Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for Demography (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based in Santiago, Chile. At CELADE, he leads a team of professionals whose goal is to strengthen countries' capacity to analyze population dynamics and their links with economic and social development, to include demographic factors into public policies. Previously he was Senior Social Affairs Officer and Officer in Charge of the Social Development Division of the ECLAC, where he led research and advised governments on poverty, inequality, and on the design, implementation and assessment of social protection policies. His work is characterized by a multi-disciplinary approach and a focus on equality and human rights. Between 1998 and 2002, Mr. Cecchini worked at the World Bank's Poverty Group. Mr. Cecchini holds a Degree in Political Science from the University of Florence, Italy, a Master's in International Trade and Investment Policy from George Washington University, Washington D.C., and an MBA from the Universidad Católica of Chile.



Mr. Srinivas Tata is currently serving as the Director of the Social Development Division of ESCAP over the last four years. The division promotes social protection, fosters gender equality, and strengthens social inclusion of persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and migrants, among others. He has 16 years of experience of working with the United Nations. Dr Tata is a physician by qualification with experience in social policy, public health, finance and taxation, and programme management. He has served in wide range of positions in the United Nations, including as the Chief of the Capacity Development in UNESCAP, and as the Chief of Social Policy and Population Section in the Social Development Division from 2012 to 2016, focusing on population ageing, demographic change, migration and health. He was also posted as the Deputy Chief of the Regional Commissions New York Office from 2010 to 2012.



Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif is currently the Senior Social Policy Advisor in the Gender, Poverty, and Social Policy Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He joined UNECA as Section Chief for its civil society programme in 2009. Mr. Jalal has 30+ years of professional experience in international development and public policy design including grant-making and project design in post-conflict. Jalal has previously worked at the World Bank on a series of Africa-wide consultations on its' performance and poverty issues in Africa. From 1992 – 2000, Jalal Abdel-Latif was the co-founder and CEO of InterAfrica Group, an African Regional Think-Think working on humanitarianism and peace Projects in the Horn of Africa. He is actively involved with a number of African CSOs working on peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, and good governance at pan African level. From 1985 – 1990 he was Africa Grants Manager for USA for Africa, responsible for managing the grant award and disbursement process and providing overall supervision of a 40 million USD grant program. Today, he sits on the board of USA for Africa. Jalal earned his Master's in African Studies and Urban Planning at UCLA, and his undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Arabic Studies from the American University of Cairo.

Moderator



Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Ms. Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. She has served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section, covering all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC; she also represented the EC to the Fifth Committee. Before joining the UN, she was responsible for

International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in several international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20. Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law from Florence University, where she then was an assistant professor in public and constitutional law.

**Multi-stakeholder Forum on the priority theme
“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of
overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19
pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development”**

Thursday, 9 February 2023 (3:00pm – 6:00pm)
Conference Room 4

Panellists



Mr. Matías Sotomayor is the General Director of International Relations and Institutional Communication of the National Council of Coordination of Social Policies Argentina. He has been in charge of the General Directorate of International Relations and Institutional Communication of the National Council of Coordination of Social Policies since April 2022. From that position, he has promoted the territorialization of the 2030 Agenda, promoting its provincial and municipal implementation through a process of coordination with local governments. Likewise, he participated in the elaboration of the Third Voluntary National Report that was submitted to the United Nations. He also partners with the private sector and state companies, and promotes social participation to add synergies to achieve the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.



Mr. Paul Vincent W Añoover is Assistant Secretary for employment and Human Resource Development in the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines. He earned a Master of Administrative Law and Policy from the University of Sydney, Australia (2017), admission to the Bar (2009), a Juris Doctor from Ateneo de Manila University (2008), and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science-Information Technology from De La Salle University – Manila (2003). He currently performs advisory functions to the Office of the Secretary and the line offices with the Employment and Human Resource Development Cluster. Prior to his stint in the Department, he worked and practiced law at the Judicial and Bar Council and at the Law Offices of Añoover Añoover San Diego & Primavera, respectively. In his ten years of private practice, he mostly handled multiple labor relations cases as well as arbitration cases for national and multinational corporations.

Ms. Maryam Abdulla Al-Thani (Female, Qatar), International Projects manager, Office of the Minister of the Social Development and the Family, State of Qatar (APG)
Ms. Al-Thani, has graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies. Prior to this she went through her primary pre University education years in the UK where she got an opportunity to grow her multi communication skills, perspectives and cultural awareness. [NO PICTURE RECEIVED]



Ms. Hafsa Qadeer is a social entrepreneur committed to finding humanitarian solutions through innovation. She is the CEO and Founder of ImInclusive, the 1st inclusive employment platform in the history of the UAE to receive certified social enterprise recognition from the national government. Hafsa Qadeer graduated from Middlesex University with a Bachelor's in International Business and holds a professional diploma in innovative marketing. Hafsa Qadeer is also a World Economic Forum Global Shaper for the Abu Dhabi community and a Vital Voices by Visa Global Fellow. She speaks about the impact-first approach of the workforce of the future on numerous local, regional, and international platforms. In 2022, ImInclusive received 1st prize from C3 Companies Creating Change Program, Accenture Middle East and Standard Chartered, as well as recognition by the Ministry of IT of Pakistan. ImInclusive team mainly includes talented people with disabilities who coach and mentor 1200+ job seekers across MENA and have trained over 15,500+ corporate staff of the largest MENA-based companies to build inclusive employment ecosystems that secure equitable, dignified employment for all.

Moderator



Ms. Jean Quinn is the Chair of NGO Committee on Social Development. She is an Irish citizen who is a member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. She is a Nurse by Profession, studied Family Therapy, Addiction Studies as well as Social Housing Studies with the Irish Council for Social Housing. She also studied Theology and Philosophy with Milltown Institute in Dublin. As well as holding many Congregational and Professional leadership roles throughout her career she has been actively involved in International Social Justice through a range of facets for many years. Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin and is the Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland. Her vision and leadership brought strength and growth to Sophia, which is now celebrating its 25th year as an organization committed to providing a holistic approach in supporting people, specifically women and children on their journey from Homelessness. Jean was a member of the UNANIMA International Board in 2016 and completed an internship that year also. Since joining the UNANIMA International Team as the Executive Director in 2017, Jean's passion for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation have continuously been utilized in her international advocacy. Through this role, she sits as the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development and was a former Co-Chair of the Working Group to End Homelessness.