Néstor Osorio, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

H.E. Ambassador Néstor Osorio was elected sixty-ninth President of the ECOSOC on 28 January 2013. Ambassador Osorio is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in New York. Prior to his appointment, from 2002, Mr. Osorio was the Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization. From 2000 to 2002, he was the Special Advisor to his Government on Coffee and Trade Affairs, after serving for a year as an International Consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization. From 1994 to 1999, he was his country’s Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization. There, he held the position of Chairman with the Organization’s Trade Policy Review Body, its International Textiles and Clothing Bureau and its Committee on Agriculture. In addition, as Chief Trade Negotiator, he participated both in ministerial conferences and in negotiations on multilateral trade. From 1978 to 1994, Mr. Osorio served as permanent representative to the International Coffee Organization, including as Head of Delegation in London for 12 years after serving as Deputy Head for four.

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

Ambassador Jan Eliasson took office as Deputy Secretary-General in July 2012. Ambassador Eliasson was from 2007-2008 the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur. Prior to this, Jan Eliasson served as President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. He was Sweden’s Ambassador to the US from September 2000 until July 2005. In March 2006, he was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden and served in this capacity until the elections in the fall of 2006. Ambassador Eliasson served from 1994 to 2000 as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was Sweden’s Ambassador to the UN in New York 1988-92, and also served as the Secretary-General’s Personal Representative for Iran/Iraq. Ambassador Eliasson has had diplomatic postings in New York (twice) Paris, Bonn, Washington (twice) and Harare, where he opened the first Swedish Embassy in 1980.

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

H.E. Wu Hongbo was appointed United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on 1 August 2012. A career diplomat, Mr. Wu had been serving, since 2009, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Federal Republic of Germany. His prior diplomatic postings also included New Zealand, and the Philippines, where he served as China’s Ambassador. From 2006 to 2009, he served as Director-General and later Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. He worked with the Chinese inter-agency coordination mechanism for the Boao Forum for Asia in 2006, the Chinese working group for the implementation mechanism of the UN conventions on environment and development, and the Chinese inter-ministry coordination mechanism for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions in 2007.
Mr. Adnan Z. Amin was elected as the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in April 2011. In this capacity he is charged with the responsibility of establishing a sound institutional management structure and clear strategic vision for the implementation of the agency’s mandate to promote the adoption and use of renewable energy worldwide.

Amin brings to this position over 25 years of experience in the fields of international environment and sustainable development policy, as well as in the political, management, and interagency coordination functions of the United Nations (UN) work. Mr. Amin served as Head of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Secretariat. Mr. Amin also served as the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary-General’s High Level Panel, co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Mozambique, Norway and Pakistan, on UN System-wide Coherence. Previously, Mr. Amin served as the Director of the New York Office of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Special Representative of the UNEP Executive Director.

Mr. José Graziano da Silva is the Director-General of FAO since January 2012. He has worked on issues of food security, rural development and agriculture for over 30 years. In 2001 he led the team that designed Brazil’s “Zero Hunger” programme. In 2003, he was charged with its implementation and was appointed as the Special Minister of Food Security and the Fight against Hunger. Prior to FAO, Graziano da Silva headed the Organization’s regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (2006-2011), where he actively supported the “Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative”. He has written and edited 26 books on rural development, food security, and agrarian economics.

H.E. Mr. Michael Anderson joined the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in 2001 and has been Director General for Policy and Global Issues since April 2010. Mr. Anderson has had a personal leadership role on evaluation, climate change, and private sector development. Since July 2012 he has been on part-time secondment to the Prime Minister’s Office as the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for the UN Development Goals. He supports the Prime Minister’s role as co-Chair of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda. Mr. Anderson also convenes a cross-government team to lead UK inputs to the Sustainable Development Goals following the Rio+20 Conference.

H.E. Ms. Susan Ulbaek is the Ambassador of Global Challenges and Green Growth of Denmark. She served as Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark. She also served as Ambassador and Under-secretary for Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and as Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank and for the Asian Development Bank. Ms. Ulbaek is also a Board Member at the Copenhagen Business School Asia Research Centre.
José Antonio Ocampo, Chair of Committee for Development Policy

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo is director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration and a fellow of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. In 2008-2010, he served as co-director of the UNDP/OAS Project on “Agenda for a Citizens’ Democracy in Latin America”, and in 2009 a Member of the Commission of Experts of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ocampo served in a number of positions in the United Nations and the Government of Colombia, most notably as United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs; Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Chairman of the Board of the Central Bank of Colombia; Director of the National Planning Department; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Executive Director of FEDESARROLLO.

Ian Noble, Lead Scientist, Global Adaptation Institute, Washington D.C.

Dr. Ian Noble has joined the Global Adaptation Institute as Chief Scientist. He recently retired from the World Bank as the Lead Climate Change Specialist with particular responsibility for the Bank’s activities in adaptation to climate change. Before joining the Bank in 2002 he was Professor of Global Change Research at the Australian National University. He has had senior roles in the IPCC process and in international cooperative research on climate change as part of the International Geosphere Biosphere Program (IGBP). In Australia he participated in the public and policy debate over responses to climate change and served as a Commissioner in an inquiry into the future of the Australian forests and forest industries.

Jan McAlpine, Director of the United Nations Division on Forests and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat

Jan McAlpine is Director of the United Nations Division on Forests and head of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat. Ms. McAlpine served previously as the Senior Advisor and lead for Forests in the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC, and in that role headed the interagency and stakeholder process in the development of the President’s Initiative Against Illegal Logging. She also led in the development of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership at the Department of State, launched at the WSSD in Johannesburg. Ms. McAlpine also conceived and developed the Asia and Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial process, working with the World Bank and the governments of Indonesia and Cameroon along with other key donors. During 2007-2008, she was a Visiting Scholar and Senior Researcher at the University of Michigan’s School for Natural Resources and Environment, where she co-facilitated and chaired the first every National Summit on Adaptation to Climate Change and edited the proceedings for the Summit. She also helped to establish the Central Africa Forest Research Initiative and now serves as Chair of its Advisory Board.
13 May, 3:00 pm – 5:50 pm  
Session 2: Scaling up for Sustainable Development

H.E. Ambassador Masood Khan, Vice-President of ECOSOC


H.E. Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture, Liberia

H.E. Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth is the Minister of Agriculture of Liberia. Dr. Chenoweth is an influential global agriculture development and human rights expert with more than 35 years of experience in developing policies and programs, training/educating on agricultural conservation, reforms and rural development, collaborating across political organizations at the local, state and international level. She is also an expert at synthesizing agricultural and human rights disciplines in analyzing basic requirements against government/individual condition and developing/impacting human rights and basic care-focused solutions to development. Dr. Chenoweth has been highly awarded/commended for service excellence, quality services and services performed. She previously served as the Director of the Food And Agricultural Organization (FAO) Liaison Officer, and Representative to the UN (2001-April 2007), and Representative of FAO in South Africa (1998-2001) and the Ghana (1995-1998). She is currently a University of Wisconsin-Madison distinguished international visitor.

Hunter Lovins, President, Natural Capitalism Solutions

Ms. Hunter Lovins, an author and sustainability thought leader for over 30 years, is the president of Natural Capitalism Solutions, a non-profit organization in Longmont, Colorado. She teaches sustainable business management at Bainbridge Graduate Institute in Seattle, and at Bard College in New York. She has taught at various universities, consulted for many citizens’ groups, governments and corporations. She has written hundreds of articles and 14 books. Her latest is, The Way Out: Kickstarting Capitalism to Save Our Economic Ass (2012). Named a "green business icon" by Newsweek, a millennium "Hero of the Planet" by Time Magazine, she has also received the Right Livelihood Award, the Rachel Carson Award, and dozens of other honors. Hunter has worked in countries from Afghanistan to New Zealand. At the request of the King of Bhutan she currently serves on ASAP (Alliance for Sustainability And Prosperity) a team of international thought leaders charged with creating a new development paradigm.
Gary Lawrence, Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, AECOM Technology Corporation

Mr. Gary Lawrence is Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer for AECOM Technology Corporation, an $8-billion global provider of professional technical and management support services. AECOM’s 45,000 employees, including architects, engineers, designers, planners, scientists and management professionals, — serve clients in more than 130 countries around the world. In this role, Mr. Lawrence leads AECOM’s sustainability efforts by managing AECOM’s extensive resources and skills in sustainability for projects across the enterprise. He is also an AECOM spokesperson and thought leader on sustainability issues. During his 30-year-plus career in public and private policy and management, his leadership skills have contributed to various global initiatives engaging in research and practice to mitigate climate change and adaptation strategies.

Mr. Philip Dobie, Senior Fellow, World Agroforestry Centre

Mr. Philip Dobie has been a practitioner in development assistance for his entire career. He began as a research biologist developing crop varieties for poor people in the developing world. He later became Senior Advisor in Natural resources and Research in Africa for the United Kingdom’s development programme. He moved to the United Nations in New York where he established and managed Capacity 21, a global capacity building programme helping countries to implement Agenda 21, the programme of action of the United Nations Earth Summit. He then took over UNDP’s Drylands Development Centre. He moved the Centre from New York to Nairobi, where he worked in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme helping countries to integrate environment and sustainable development into national policies. Since retiring from the United Nations he has returned to his research roots as a Senior Fellow with the World Agroforestry Centre. He focuses on policy issues and linking research with implementation and has been active in linking the research community to the Rio+20 and 2015 processes.

Felix Dodds, Former Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Mr. Felix Dodds is an author, futurist and activist. He has been instrumental in developing new modes of stakeholder engagement with the United Nations, particularly within the field of sustainable development. Mr. Dodds was the Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future from 1992-2012. His writing includes nine books with three covering the area of the new emerging nexus between environment and security. His latest book with Michael Strauss and former UN Under Secretary General Maurice Strong is called: 'Only One Earth - the Long Road via Rio to Sustainable Development' (2012). It explores the history of the last 40 years and the challenges for the future. In 2011 he chaired the UN DPI NGO Conference 'Sustainable Societies - Responsive Citizens' and he will co-direct the 2014 Nexus Conference on Food, Water, Energy and Climate in Chapel Hill North Carolina.