

2016 ECOSOC High-level Segment Thematic Dialogue

Speaker Bios



His Excellency Oh Joon is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York, currently serving as the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). He also served as President of the Security Council during the 2013-2014 term. Previously, he served as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Singapore from 2010-13 and Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs. From 2005 to 2007, he was Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Korea to the United Nations in New York.



Her Excellency Laura Chinchilla Miranda is the former President of Costa Rica. Previously, she also served as Vice President of Costa Rica, as minister of public security as well as a deputy for the province of San José in the National Assembly. HE Laura Chinchilla Miranda graduated from the University of Costa Rica and received her master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.



His Excellency Thoriq Ibrahim is the Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives. HE Thoriq Ibrahim has been the Chair of Association of Small Island States was the Project Director from the Maldivian Government side for the reconstruction of houses in the Maldives that were destroyed during the tsunami of 2004.



His Excellency Kisamba Mugerwa is the Chairman of the National Planning Authority of Uganda, the body created in 2002 to advance the Uganda Vision 2040, the country's plan to secure future prosperity. HE Kisamba Mugerwa is also the former Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda.



Mrs. Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi is the Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank. Previously, she occupied the position of the Director of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Democratic Governance Group, overseeing the organization's related strategic and policy work. She was also appointed as a board member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Previously, she served as Minister for Public Service and Administration and as Minister for Welfare and Population Development of South Africa.



Mr. Laurence Carter is the Senior Director of the Public-Private Partnerships Group of the World Bank Group. The PPP Group advises on the strategic direction and goals for the WBG on PPPs, supports coordination across the WBG, promotes partnerships and facilitates global knowledge about PPPs. Previously, Mr. Carter ran the IFC's PPP Transaction Advisory Department for and held positions in IFC's Central and Eastern Europe department and the Small and Medium Enterprises Department.



Mr. Amar Bhattacharya is Senior Fellow at the Global Economy and Development Program at Brookings Institution. His focus areas are the global economy, development finance, global governance, and the links between climate and development. From 2007 to 2014 he was Director of the Group of 24, an intergovernmental group of developing country Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.



Mr. Thomas Gass is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He brings with him wide-ranging experience in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. From 2009 to 2013, he served as Head of the Mission of Switzerland to Nepal, where he established the Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal. He also chaired the Donors of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund. Previously, Mr. Gass also served as Head of the Economic and Development Section at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York.



Mr. Homi Kharas is a senior fellow and deputy director for the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Formerly a chief economist in the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank, Kharas currently studies policies and trends influencing developing countries, including aid to poor countries, the emergence of a middle class, the food crisis and global governance and the G20. His most recent co-authored/edited books are *The Last Mile in Ending Extreme Poverty* (Brookings Press, 2015), *After the Spring: Economic Transitions in the Arab World* (Oxford University Press, 2012).