



TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

2018 ECOSOC Special Meeting

“Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all”

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Opening (10:00 - 10:40 am)



H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová
President of the Economic and Social Council

Her Excellency Marie Chatardová was elected seventy-third President of the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2017. Ambassador Chatardová is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York.

Until her appointment in 2016, Ms. Chatardová was her country’s Ambassador to France and Monaco, and its Permanent Representative to the International Organization of la Francophonie. Between 2013 and 2016, she also served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

A career diplomat, Ms. Chatardová held several positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She was Director of Diplomatic Protocol from 2007 to 2010, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Sweden from 2002 to 2007. Prior to that, she was Director of the Communications Strategies Department, from 2000 to 2002, and Unit Chief of the Department for the Coordination of Relations with the European Union, between 1999 and 2000. She also served in the Permanent Mission of Czech Republic to the European Union, between 1995 and 1999, and in the Ministry’s Department of Analysis and Policy Planning, from 1994 to 1995.

Ms. Chatardová was awarded Commander of the National Order of the Legion of Honour of France in 2016, and also Officer of the Order of Saint-Charles of Monaco in 2016.

Ms. Chatardová holds a doctorate of law from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.



H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development.

Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Before joining the UN, Ms. Mohammed worked for three successive administrations in Nigeria, serving as Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, providing advice on issues including poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development, and coordinating programmes worth \$1 billion annually for MDG-related interventions.

She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women's Millennium Initiative, Girl Effect, 2016 African Union Reform and the ActionAid International Right to Education Project.

Ms. Mohammed began her 35-year career in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.



Mr. Vladislav Smrž

Deputy Minister of Environment, Czech Republic

Ing. Vladislav Smrž was born in 1977, he graduated from the Socio-Economic Faculty of the University of JE Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem. He worked in the chemical and automotive industries, where he was responsible for human resources, security and asset management. Before joining MoE he worked as personnel director at Lovochemie. In his leisure time he enjoys sports, skiing and riding horse. He is married and has two daughters. He is currently Deputy Minister for Section of Environmental Policy and International Relations at MoE.



Mr. Sergio Londoño Zurek

General Director of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, APC-Colombia

Mr. Sergio Londoño Zurek assumed the directorship of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, APC-Colombia on February 16th of 2017.

He is a political scientist with emphasis in international relations from the Javeriana University. Additionally, he holds a specialization in government and public management from EAN University and completed post baccalaureate studies in democracy and international relations at Columbia University.

His background and work experience in government matters have established him as an expert in multilateralism, bilateral relationships, and political and commercial relations among States and organizations. His expertise as a political scientist and internationalist has enabled him to understand current global affairs and develop skills in conflict resolution and international cooperation.

He is particularly interested in fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors to insert dynamism in international cooperation, boosting Colombia's competitiveness and positioning overseas.

Before joining APC-Colombia, he worked as an adviser for President Juan Manuel Santos. Previous work experience includes entities such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and Cartagena's Chamber of Commerce.

**Session 2: Global trends and emerging issues: Building sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies in a changing world
(10:40 am – 11:50 am)**



Mr. Elliott Harris

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN DESA

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Mr. Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist effective 2 April 2018.

Mr. Harris brings over 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. He has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and its application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for

resilient and sustained economic development. His work in the field of economics also focuses on the macroeconomic linkages with global social and environmental policies.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Harris served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2015. He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group.

Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department, and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department.

Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and political science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany.



Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin

Senior Vice President, World Bank Group

Dr. Mohieldin is the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships. He serves as a Board member on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, as well as an observer to the EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform for the SDGs. Dr. Mohieldin previously served as Corporate Secretary, President's Special Envoy, and Managing Director for the World Bank Group.

Before joining the World Bank, Dr. Mohieldin held numerous senior positions in the Government of Egypt, including Minister of Investment from 2004 until 2010. He also served on several Boards of Directors including the Central Bank of Egypt and the banking and corporate sector. He was a member of the Commission on Growth and Development and selected a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

He is a Professor of Economics and Finance at Cairo University, an Honorary Professor at Durham University and member of the Advisory Board of the Durham Business School. He also held leading positions in national and regional research centers and think tanks. He has authored numerous publications and articles in leading journals in the fields of international finance, economics, and development in English and Arabic.

He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Warwick, M.Sc. in Economic and Social Policy Analysis from the University of York, and B.Sc. in Economics, first in the order of merit, from Cairo University.



Ms. Mami Mizutori

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms. Mami Mizutori was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) on 1 March 2018. She brings to the position a combination of management and leadership expertise as well as more than twenty-five years of experience in international affairs and security.

Ms. Mizutori served for twenty-seven years in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in various capacities, including as Budget Director, Director of the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) at the Embassy of Japan in London, Director of the National Security Policy Division, Director of the United Nations Policy Division, Director of the Status of US Forces Agreement Division, and Deputy Director of the Personnel Division. Prior to joining UNISDR she was Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK since 2011.

Ms. Mizutori has worked in London, Washington D.C., and Mexico City. She has taught courses on governance in East Asia at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and international studies at Waseda University, Tokyo. She Mizutori graduated in law from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and obtained a Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain. Ms. Mizutori is a Japanese national.



Ms. Janet C. Gornick

Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Graduate Center – CUNY
Director, James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
Director, US Office of LIS, LIS Senior Scholar

Janet Gornick attended Harvard University, where she was awarded a BA (Psychology and Social Relations 1980), an MPA (Kennedy School 1987), and a PhD (Political Economy and Government 1994). She is currently Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. From September 2006 to August 2016, she served as Director of LIS (formerly, the Luxembourg Income Study), a cross-national data archive and research center located in Luxembourg, with a satellite office at the Graduate Center. As of September 1, 2016, she serves as Director of the new James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, and as Director of the US Office of LIS.

Most of her research is comparative and concerns social welfare policies and their impact on gender disparities in the labor market and income inequality. She has published articles on gender inequality, employment, and social policy in several journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Journal of European Social Policy*, *European Sociological Review*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Monthly Labor Review*, and *Feminist Economics*. She served as Guest Editor

for “Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in High-Employment Economies: Policy Designs and their Consequences,” a special double issue of the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* (2006-2007). She regularly presents her work in popular venues, including *The American Prospect*, *Dissent*, and *Challenge Magazine*.

She is co-author or co-editor of three books: *Families That Work: Policies for Reconciling Parenthood and Employment* (Russell Sage Foundation 2003), *Gender Equality: Transforming Family Divisions of Labor* (Verso Press 2009), and *Income Inequality: Economic Disparities and the Middle Class in Affluent Countries* (Stanford University Press 2013).

Her research has been generously supported by many sponsors, including the Russell Sage Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), the Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), the Social Security Administration (SSA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Governors' Association (NGA), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Bank.

She has served on several advisory boards, including: A Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center; the Journal of European Social Policy; IPUMS-International; Statistics Canada’s Advisory Committee on Labour and Income Statistics; the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP); and the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).

**Session 3: Innovative policy approaches and technologies to foster participation of all
(11:50 am – 1:00 pm)**



Mr. Michael Shank

Communications Director, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance

Michael’s professional career includes leading press and/or policy shops at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Climate Nexus, Friends Committee on National Legislation, U.S. Congress (Mike Honda), Institute for Economics and Peace, Biodiversity Northwest, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and more. Michael is adjunct faculty at New York University’s Center for Global Affairs, where he teaches graduate courses on Sustainable Development, Power and Politics and Climate and Security. Shank is also adjunct faculty and a board member at George Mason University’s School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, where he teaches graduate courses on Communicating Conflict. Michael is a former columnist for the Washington Post and US News & World Report and a contributor to USA Today, CNN, The Guardian, TIME, Fast Company, MSNBC and more. Michael holds a Ph.D. from George Mason University’s School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.



Dr. Hedia Belhadj, MD, MPH

Groupe Tawhida Ben Cheikh, Women's Health Research and Action, Tunisia

Physician, and senior professional in public health, population and development, has over 30 year experience in programme management, policy dialogue and advocacy. Dr. Belhadj served in various positions in United Nations organizations (UNFPA and UNAIDS) at international level in New York and Geneva headquarters, and as head of UNFPA in Yemen, and for UNAIDS in Tanzania and China.

Dr. Belhadj published peer-reviewed papers on the right to health, gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights and health. Since 2014, she has been active in civil society in Tunisia. She is currently the president of the Groupe Tawhida Ben Cheikh, an association for women's health research and action. For 2 years, Dr Belhadj was the focal person in Tunisia working with the Czech Institute for Democracy IDH21, promoting participative democracy in public spheres including municipalities.



Mr. Francesco Tena

Project Manager, Participatory Budgeting Project, USA

After focusing on guiding and growing PB on the West Coast, Francesco is taking his leadership on a national level as he supports processes across the country. He started his career as a teenager in Boston's City Hall, surrounded by adults who actually listened. Since then, Francesco has been dedicated to addressing youth employment disparities, developing meaningful civic engagement in local government, and empowering people to take control of their future (and their budgets). Prior to joining PBP, Francesco worked in youth development for 10 years. At the Boston Public Health Commission, he supported programming designed to diversify the pool of health professionals in Boston. Francesco then went on to lead youth civic engagement for the City of Boston as the Manager of the Mayor's Youth Council. In this capacity, he oversaw the first three cycles of Youth Lead the Change, the nation's first youth exclusive PB process and winner of the 2016 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. Francesco is also a tech enthusiast and wannabe chess master.



Dr. Aroon P. Manoharan

Professor and Program Director, Global Comparative Public Administration
MPA Program, University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

Dr. Aroon P. Manoharan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is also the Director of the Global Comparative Master of Public Administration (MPA) program in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies.

His area of research is e-government, the use of information technology to deliver government services,

integrate and transact government business, and enable citizen participation in government. His focus on e-government integrates the domains of strategic planning, performance measurement, and public performance reporting. He is also interested in the role of academic programs in strengthening IT capacity by teaching and training public sector employees to effectively utilize IT initiatives and enable successful implementation of e-government projects.

Professor Manoharan's research employs an international comparative focus, and he was involved in e-government projects in Prague (Czech Republic), Sofia (Bulgaria), and Cape Town (South Africa). He holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark. As Associate Director of the E-Governance Institute at Rutgers-Newark, he directed major initiatives including the Digital Governance in Municipalities Worldwide Surveys, and the U.S. States and Municipalities E-Governance Surveys.



Mr. Petr Marek
ERCTech, Czech Republic

Petr Marek is Business Development Director at ERCTech. Prior to that, he held a position in the sales department of GB Energy Holding. At that time, he became interested in ecology and renewable resources, and the concept of effective recycling.

Petr Marek studied at the Secondary Chemical School in Brno from which he graduated in 2006.

**Session 4: Strengthening cooperation for sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies
(3:00 - 5:45 pm)**



Mr. David Steven
Senior Fellow and Associate Director at New York University's Center on International Cooperation

David leads the *Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies* program – a group of member states, international organizations, global partnerships, and other partners exploring the challenge of delivering the 2030 Agenda targets for peace, justice and inclusion. The Pathfinders launched the first *Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies* at the UNGA meeting in September 2017. David was recently a Senior External Adviser to the recent UN/World Bank flagship report *Pathways for Peace*, and a Senior Strategic

Adviser for the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Other publications include *Where Next? Ending Violence Against Children*, and *Turning Ambition into Reality – Platforms and Partnerships for Delivering Agenda 2030*.



Mr. Martin Chungong

Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Martin Chungong made double history in 2014 by becoming the first African and first non-European to be elected as IPU Secretary General.

He has more than three decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international levels. He has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy worldwide.

After 14 years working in the Cameroonian Parliament, he spent more than 20 distinguished years within our organization before being elected IPU Secretary General—the eighth person to hold the position. He had previously served as Deputy Secretary General and Director of Programmes. He has become a leader in his field through his work on developing programmes to help parliaments become more transparent, accountable, representative and effective democratic institutions.

Martin Chungong has further contributed to establishing governance benchmarks to strengthen democracy, as chair of the Management Committee on Accountability of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Governance Network.

He has also built an impressive portfolio in the promotion of dialogue and conflict resolution, issues that remain at the heart of our global work. His focus on helping countries emerge from conflict or in transition has been widely acknowledged by our membership and partners globally.

Since 2012, Martin Chungong has made a push to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development and accountability through his role as Parliamentary Representative on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, an international group which helps nations, business and organizations work better together to end poverty.

As part of IPU's commitment to gender parity, Martin Chungong is an International Gender Champion, part of a network of decision makers, male and female, who have committed to breaking down gender barriers. He is also leading IPU's work to dramatically reduce maternal and child mortality rates through effective legislation and its implementation, as well as ensuring governments' accountability to international commitments in this area.

A linguist by training, Martin Chungong speaks English, French and Spanish. He holds degrees from both the University of Yaoundé and the University of Ottawa. He has been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade, an honour awarded by what is now known as the International Organisation of La Francophonie to people who have distinguished themselves in the service of its ideals of cooperation and friendship.



Mr. Andrew Gilmour

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Head of New York OHCHR Office

Andrew Gilmour of the United Kingdom assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 1 October 2016, heading OHCHR's Office in New York.

In October 2016, Mr. Gilmour was designated by the Secretary-General as senior official to lead the efforts within the UN system to address intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights.

In his previous position, which he held since 2012, as Director for Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gilmour was responsible for spearheading the implementation of the [Human Rights Up Front initiative](#).

Since joining the United Nations in 1989, he has held a variety of positions both at the United Nations Headquarters and in the field, including in Afghanistan-Pakistan, Kosovo, Middle East and West Africa. In recent years, he has served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, and in South Sudan and was the Representative of the Secretary-General in Belgrade.

Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Gilmour was an adjunct fellow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and worked in the fields of politics and journalism. He has contributed [articles](#) for a wide range of publications throughout his career.

He holds master's degrees from Oxford University in History and also the London School of Economics in History and Government.

Mr. Gilmour, who is Scottish, was born in 1964. He is married with four children.



Ms. Nathalie Molina Niño

CEO, BRAVA Investments

Nathalie Molina Niño is the CEO and founder of BRAVA Investments, investing in high-growth, innovative businesses that delivery a measurable economic benefit to women. A technologist and coder by training, Molina Niño launched her first tech startup at the age of twenty. Molina Niño is also the co-founder of [Entrepreneurs@Athena](#) at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies of Barnard College at Columbia University. She has served as a business and global growth advisor to industry leaders in the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, including Disney, Microsoft, MTV, Mattel, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Most recently, she stepped in as CRO of PowerToFly and led the launch campaign for Nely Galán's *New York Times* bestseller and company, Self-Made.



Mr. Tomáš Rákos

Head of Business Development & Special Projects, D21, Czech Republic

Tomáš Rákos co-founded D21, an international social enterprise that became throughout the past 5 years a leading organization in the field of public participation and community engagement. As a leading expert and a playing coach of the team he oversaw the implementation of various projects in more than 60 cities and personally led the team through the NYC Participatory Budgeting cycle during which the city shifted towards a more digital solution.

Tomas developed and designed various participatory products and services, and helped to implement them in US, UK, France, Zambia and India.

He is currently working on developing long term and complex smart city solutions that help communities and local governments create better strategies and enhance their well-being based on data and constructive dialogues. He has been advising policy makers, urbanists, and government institutions. Prior to D21 he has worked as a reporter for various nationwide Czech media, including Czech Radio and Czech Television.



Mr. Vitalice Meja

Reality of Aid Africa Network, Kenya

Mr. Vitalice Meja has years of experience in development policy lobbying and advocacy as well as research at national, regional and international level on issues of financing for development, debt, and official development assistance with both governments and the multilateral bodies. He is a specialist in development policy analysis in the areas of development cooperation, economic development, poverty reduction policies and micro finance as it relates to NGO – government and intergovernmental organisation. He is currently the Executive Director of the Reality of Aid Africa Network – A pan African Network working on Poverty Eradication through Effective Development Co-operation.

Reality of Aid Africa are an integral part of the Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) involvement with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPDEC) and currently involved with monitoring of its indicators which also include CSO enabling environment indicators. He is the Policy Co-Chair for CPDE. Mr. Meja is part of the Technical working group of African Platform on development effectiveness charged with the responsibility of advising on the implementation of the GPDEC as well as African consensus on development effectiveness co-ordinated by NEPAD.



Mr. Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA

Mr. Liu 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.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. He has served, among others, as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013). In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu 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.