



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



„TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT
AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF ALL”

ECOSOC Preparatory Meeting
March 26 - 27, Prague



ECOSOC PREPARATORY MEETING (March 26 – 27, 2018)

March 26, 2018 - Prague

- 8.30 – 9.00 Accreditation
- 9.00 – 9.05 Opening Remarks by Amb. Marie Chatardová, ECOSOC President
- 9.05 – 9.15 Address by Mr. Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
- 9.15 – 9.25 Address by Mr. Luis Fernando Mejía, Minister of Planning, Colombia
- 9.30 – 11.00 High-Level Panel – Achieving the 2030 Agenda through Participation of All
Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the UN General Assembly
Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Mr. Martin Stropnický, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Amb. Marie Chatardová, ECOSOC President
Moderator: Daniel Stach, Czech Television
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 13.00 Best Practices Showcase 1
Mitchell Kosny: Regent Park Revitalization (Canada)
Hedia Belhadj: Improving Women's Resilience (Tunisia)
Kai Klandorf: Citizen Initiative Portal (Estonia)
Moderator: Bonian Golmohammadi, Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations
- 13.00 – 14.00 Buffet Lunch, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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- 14.00 – 15.30 Best Practices Showcase 2
Amelia Loye: ChangeCamp, Code for Australia Academy (Australia)
Moses Mwansa: My School, My Vote (Zambia)
Ankitha Cheerakathil: School Participatory Budgeting (India)
Martin Tlapa: Participation as Path Towards the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic (Czech Republic)
Moderator: David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director at New York University's Center on International Cooperation
- 15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 – 17.00 Open Presentation of Participatory Projects and Discussion
Moderator: Catherine Pollard, UN Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management
- 17.00 – 17.30 Summary and Final Statement
Neil Pierre, Chief Policy Coordination Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN DESA
- 17.45 – 19.15 Reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

March 27, 2018 – Field Trip

- 9.00 Departure from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the City of Kolín
10.15 Presentation of Local Participation Projects
12.15 Lunch
13.15 Walk through the City
15.00 Return to Prague by bus
16.15 Arrival in Prague

March 26, 2018 - Speakers

Opening Statements



His Excellency Mr. Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

His Excellency Mr. Andrej Babiš was appointed Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in December 2017 after the electoral successes of his movement ANO in the 2017 Parliamentary elections. Since 2012, Andrej Babiš has led the Movement ANO 2011, for which he was elected to the Parliament of the Czech Republic in the national elections in 2013. As a member of the governing coalition in 2013-2017, he served as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Andrej Babiš graduated from the University of Economics in Bratislava, in the field of Foreign Trade. In 1993, Mr. Babiš founded his own company – agrochemical holding Agrofert.



His Excellency Mr. Luis Fernando Mejía, Minister of National Planning of Colombia

His Excellency Mr. Luis Fernando Mejía was appointed Minister of National Planning/Director of the National Planning Department in May 2017. He served as Deputy Director of the Department of National Planning (DNP), worked as the Head of the Directorate of Macroeconomic Policy at the Ministry of Finance and Central bank and Inter-American Development Bank researcher. Luis Fernando Mejía has been a professor of international macroeconomics and finance at the University of the Andes, Javeriana University and the University of Chicago. During his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago, he served as an assistant professor to Thomas Sargent, the Nobel Prize holder in economics. L. F. Mejía holds MBA degrees from the University of the Andes and the University of Chicago, an institution where he also earned his PhD in economics.

High-Level Panel – Achieving the 2030 Agenda through Participation of All



Moderator

Mr. Daniel Stach

Daniel Stach is a moderator, working at Czech Television since 2012. Daniel Stach graduated from the Charles University in Prague (Social Sciences) and the University of Economics in Prague (International Relations). He conducted interviews with 16 Nobel Prize laureates including His Holiness The Dalai Lama, philosophers, physicists, psychologists, mathematicians, athletes. Daniel Stach was awarded a number of prizes for his work, including, the "Journalism Award 2016".



His Excellency Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of 72nd session of the United Nations' General Assembly

On May 31 2017, the General Assembly of the United Nations elected H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák of Slovakia as President of its seventy-second session, which spans from September 2017 to September 2018. At the time of his election, PGA Lajčák was serving his third term as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, a position he held since April 2012. From April 2012 to March 2016, PGA Lajčák also served as Deputy Prime Minister of his country. PGA Lajčák has dedicated his professional life to diplomatic service, representing both the Slovak Republic and the international community on posts in Brussels, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.



Her Excellency Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Her Excellency Ms. Amina J. Mohammed was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations in February 2017. DSG Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and 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. DSG 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. 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.



His Excellency Mr. Martin Stropnický, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

His Excellency Martin Stropnický was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in December 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, he held the post of Defence Minister of the Czech Republic. In 1998 he served as Minister of Culture. Minister Stropnický was elected to the Czech Parliament in 2013 and reelected in 2017, representing the ANO 2011 Movement. He has extensive diplomatic experience, having served as the Czech Republic's Ambassador to Portugal (1993 – 1994), Italy (1994 – 1997) and the Holy See (1999 – 2002). Minister Stropnický graduated in 1980 with a Master's Degree from the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. In 1991 he completed his studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. He is fluent in English, French and Italian.

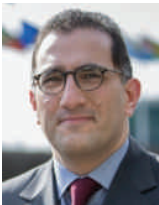


Her Excellency Ms. Marie Chatardová, President of United Nations Economic and Social Council

Her Excellency Marie Chatardová was elected seventy-third President of the Economic and Social Council on July 27 2017. Ambassador Chatardová is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Chatardová also served as Czech Ambassador to France and Monaco and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Ambassador 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. Ambassador Chatardová holds a doctorate of law from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

Best Practices Showcase I

Moderator



Mr. Bonian Golmohammadi, Secretary-General of WFUNA

Mr. Bonian Golmohammadi was elected Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in August 2009. Since then, WFUNA has substantially grown in its programmatic activities, organizational structure - including the establishment of new offices in Seoul, Korea, Brussels, Belgium and New Delhi, India - and partnerships. Previously, Mr. Golmohammadi also served as Secretary-General of the United Nations Association (UNA) of Sweden. Prior to joining UNA-Sweden, Mr. Golmohammadi worked with consultancy and private businesses in Sweden and the Czech Republic, including developing a national globalization project for high schools, working with publishing as well as project management.



Dr. Mitchell Kosny, Associate Director and Professor of the Ryerson School of Urban and Regional Planning in Toronto

Dr. Mitchell Kosny has a long history of engagement in strategic planning, politics and governance in Canada, and leadership in local government capacity-building projects in South Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and China. Dr. Kosny is also intimately involved with local planning/governance issues and the political scene in the City of Toronto. As former Chair of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation he was responsible for leadership of the largest social housing provider in Canada—home to 165,000 residents in 58,000 units across the City—during the initial phases of the \$1 billion (CDN) revitalization of Regent Park, one of the country's oldest social housing communities.

Project

Regent Park is one of the oldest social housing communities in Canada. Originally developed in 1948 by The Housing Authority of Toronto and inspired by Ebenezer Howard's Garden City movement from the UK, it was initiated as a classic slum clearance project of 70 acres in the heart of Toronto. In 2006, Toronto Community Housing Corporation (Canada's largest social housing provider) started Phase One of a fifteen year, \$1 billion (CDN) revitalization of the community. A cornerstone of the revitalization was TCHC's community participation strategy. The presentation will focus on how the community engagement process--owned by the community and embraced at the corporate level by TCHC--has framed the development process en route to enhancing the resilience and inclusivity of everyone in Regent Park.



Dr. Hedia Belhadj, President of the Groupe Tawhida Ben Cheikh

Hailing from Tunisia, physician, and senior professional in public health, population and development, Dr. Hedia Belhadj has over 30 years 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 also the focal person for IDH21 in Tunisia, promoting participative democracy in municipalities.

Project

The aftermath of the 2011 in Tunisia revolution saw the rise of conservative attitudes, and concomitantly the emergence of opportunities for democratisation. Civil society has played a major role in identifying threats to civil liberties, and mitigating interventions to address them through coalition building, advocacy and community participation. "Women speak out" aims at empowering women through knowledge sharing, group dynamics and access to social and legal services. The results recorded include increased resilience and attitude transformation with new skills for self-protection and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, through improved understanding of human and civil rights, community members became advocates for social justice, gender equality and responsible citizenship.



Ms. Kai Klandorf, Citizen Initiative Portal

Estonia's Kai Klandorf is a mission driven professional with a diverse background. She is an experienced project manager with a demonstrated history of working in the civil society. Ms. Klandorf is skilled in nonprofit organizations, critical thinking, and business process improvement. She is a strong program and project management professional with work experience from both government institutions and civil society organizations. She has a Master's Degree in pedagogy from Tartu University.

Project

3 steps will be introduced, which Estonia has made to improve inclusion using effective e-solutions.

- 1) Involving people in the law making process - Estonia created the e-Consultation System as a work environment for inter-ministerial coordination of documents, submission of documentation to the Government and the Parliament as well as for public consultation.
- 2) Allow people to initiate collective initiatives - The Estonian Cooperation Assembly has set up a Citizen Initiative Portal rahvaalgatus.ee, which makes it possible to compose and send collective initiatives to the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu).
- 3) The Participative Budgeting Process - Citizens of Tartu can decide how their city should spend about 1% of the subsequent year's investment budget.

Best Practices Showcase 2



Moderator

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

Mr. David Steven 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. David was 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, helping develop the partnership's strategy and prepare it for formal launch in 2016.



Ms. Amelia Loye, Engage2 Founder

Ms. Amelia Loye is an internationally respected leader in community engagement, social innovation, open government and digital democracy. She has been helping governments understand communities, assess social impacts and invite public participation into the design and delivery of policy, programs and services in Australia, New Zealand and Canada for 15 years. In 2012, Amelia founded Engage2, a networked business, so she could work with specialists in public participation, collaboration, smart cities, democratic reform specialists from across the globe to scale the impact of her work.

Project

Across Australia governments have been testing new models to invite participation and work with community to understand and address complex social challenges. The Innovation Academy encourages public participation and cross-sector collaboration in the design and delivery of public services, policies and programs by teaching people in the public, private and community sector 'innovation' methods like human centred design, data-driven decision making, problem definition and ideation. After years of designing and managing public participation, engagement and cross collaboration, Amelia will share what she has learned about various methods and the importance of participation and inclusion for resilience and sustainable communities.



Mr. Moses Mwansa, a Good Governance, Democracy and Civic Engagement advocate

Mr. Moses Mwansa works with the United States Department of State, and D21, a Czech Based Organisation (Experts in Participatory Processes), as a Project Coordinator for a School - Based Participatory Budgeting (PB) project called, "My School, My Vote", which was implemented in Kitwe Town of Zambia. A Graduate of Cavendish University Zambia, with a Master of Science in Project Management, Moses also works with Hyper Initiative Network, a Kitwe Based NGO, specialized in improving literacy in Zambia and helps underprivileged kids with sponsorship to school.

Project

„My School, My Vote“ project is a school-based participatory budgeting (PB) project that was implemented for the first time in Africa with the help of a Czech Republic based D21, and the United States Department of State's Tech-Camp Programme. A Zambian - Czech School-based Participatory Budgeting Project “My School, My Vote” helped students in 8th to 12th Grades to put into practice what they learnt in civic education. They learnt how to propose ideas, deliberate and turn their ideas into projects, debate, campaign, vote and implement the proposed projects without any help from teachers or parents. The idea is to educate children who will grow to be experts in democracy and its processes, civic engagement, leadership and transparency.



Ms. Ankitha Cheerakathil, Director of the Foundation for Community Consensus in India

Ms. Ankitha Cheerakathil holds a Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po. She brings her experience from working on human rights in India to her current role as Director of the Foundation for Community Consensus, where she is leading the strategy, partnership development and participatory projects in India. Her work ranges from supporting civic participation for Smart Cities to promoting participatory decision-making in educational institutions.

Project

India's complex and varied political contexts are ripe ground for experiments in participatory democracy. With this in mind, the foundation together with international participation expert D21, initiated a school participatory budgeting exercise in a public school in the national capital, New Delhi. The exercise allowed students to suggest proposals for and vote on their school budget. It was highlighted in Indian media as the beginning of a fascinating journey for Indian youth for growing into socially active, responsible and democratic citizens.



His Excellency Mr. Martin Tlapa, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Mr. Martin Tlapa has been the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic since March 2014. Prior to assuming his current post, he served as the Deputy Secretary of State for European Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade. He lectures and publishes on a broad spectrum of topics, especially trade and export policies of the Czech Republic and the European Union, management in the public sector and international competitiveness. He is one of the authors of the Czech Strategy for International Competitiveness.

Project

The Czech Republic has chosen participation not only as the priority of its ECOSOC Presidency but also lives up to this principle when implementing the 2030 Agenda in its domestic and external policies. When the Government of the Czech Republic adopted in April 2017 the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 as the new national sustainability strategy, it was only the last step in a broad participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders. Four months later, the Government adopted the new Development Cooperation Strategy, highlighting local ownership of development policies, inclusive participation in decision making and development partnerships between the government, civil society and private sector.

Open Presentation of Participatory Projects and Discussion

Moderator

Her Excellency Ms. Catherine Pollard, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management

Her Excellency Ms. Catherine Pollard, a national of Guyana, assumed office as Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management in December 2015 and was also appointed as the Coordinator for Multilingualism in the United Nations Secretariat. In August 2017, she was appointed as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School in addition to her other duties. Previously, USG Pollard served as Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management since September 2014. Before joining the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, she was Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management for six years. Prior to this, she worked in various roles with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts; the United Nations Development Programme; and the United Nations Volunteers.

Summary and Final Statement



Mr. Neil Pierre, Chief Policy Coordination Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN DESA

Mr. Neil Pierre assumed the post of Chief, Policy Coordination Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, DESA in May 2010. His responsibilities in this position entail coordinating preparations for the ECOSOC Integration Segment and High-level Segment, as well as providing substantive support to the ECOSOC Bureau and the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. Before joining the United Nations Mr. Pierre worked as a diplomat in the Foreign Service of Guyana, serving in London, Brussels and at the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the UN.

March 27 Field Trip

The picturesque and historic city of Kolín is a frontrunner in the field of participation projects. Driven by the city hall, Kolín developed locally an application to support participation of its citizens. The mobile and web app "The Better Place" can be used to point out shortcomings in the daily life of the city and enables an ongoing communication between the people and the city hall. After registration, the citizens can describe or photograph any problematic spot. The app then adds localization and the comment is being delivered to a responsible clerk. The system is based on a two way communication and also allows following the state of the solution through regular updates. Kolín is also becoming a smart city with several ongoing projects such as the smart parking system, application „Kolín in Mobile“, city Information channel, or city Smart Keycard.



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