

## Speaker Bios Session 2

### “Mainstreaming inclusive multi-stakeholders partnerships and approaches in international development cooperation: policy and legal frameworks”

*ECOSOC Chamber, 21 May 2018, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM*

#### **Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN**



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 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. Since 2015, Mr. Harris has served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 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 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 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.

#### **Ms. Susan Fine, Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, USAID, United States of America**



Ms. Fine, a Senior Foreign Service Officer with rank of Minister Counselor, has served in multiple positions in Washington and overseas including Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, PPL, responsible for policy and development cooperation, Director for Development Cooperation, and Mission Director for Senegal and the Sahel, where she managed a complex, multi-sector portfolio in Senegal, the Sahel Resilience program and bilateral activities in Niger and Burkina Faso. Prior to that, she was Director for East African Affairs in the Africa Bureau where she oversaw USAID’s programs in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes countries. From 2010-11, Ms. Fine was Deputy Mission Director responsible for southern Sudan during its historic self-determination referendum and transition to independence. Ms. Fine began her development career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Swaziland and served with USAID in Uganda, South Africa, and Senegal before returning to Washington in 2004 to work in the Bureau for Asia and the Middle East and the Office of the Chief Operating Officer. She holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Colby College and a master’s degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

#### **Ms. Nonhlanhla Mkhize, Chief Director, Innovation for Inclusive Development, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa**



Nonhlanhla Mkhize is currently a Chief Director: Innovation for Inclusive Development at the Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa. She has served the South African government in various strategic and operational roles in biodiversity management and sustainable development, innovation in support of inclusive development and overseeing research and development programmes. She has experience in designing and overseeing multi-stakeholder programmes in support of the national development agenda. She has also represented South Africa in various forums and technical committees dedicated on using science, technology and innovation to advance inclusive development. Ms Mkhize holds a B. Sc degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry and a B.Sc Hons in Microbiology. She is currently pursuing her Doctoral studies at the University of Cape Town’s Graduate School of Business.

### **Mr. Jeff Hoffman, Board Member, Global Entrepreneurship Network and The Unreasonable Group**



Jeff Hoffman is a successful entrepreneur, proven CEO, worldwide motivational speaker, published author, Hollywood film producer, and a producer of a Grammy winning jazz album. In his career, he has been the founder of multiple startups, he has been the CEO of both public and private companies, and he has served as a senior executive in many capacities. Jeff has been part of a number of well-known companies, including Priceline.com, uBid.com, CTI, ColorJar, and more. Today he is Managing Partner of Legend52, an investment fund created to buy professional sports teams, as well as invest in technology and entertainment. Jeff serves on the boards of companies in the US, Europe, South America, Africa, and Asia. He supports entrepreneurs and small businesses on a worldwide basis, serving on boards of a diverse range of entrepreneurship networks and initiatives.

He supports the White House, the State Department, the United Nations, and similar organizations internationally on economic growth initiatives and entrepreneurship programs. Jeff is a frequent keynote speaker, speaking on the topics of innovation, entrepreneurship, and business leadership, and is the author of the book SCALE, a how-to guide for growing your business. Jeff also teaches innovation workshops to major corporations on a regular basis. Jeff was honored among other with the Best of the Best Award from the national CEO association (Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization).

### **Mr. Luca Maestriperi, Deputy Director General for the International Cooperation, Italy**



He holds a degree in law from the University of Pisa. Subsequently he joined the Foreign Service on 13 February 1989 following competitive examination. Served with the Directorate General for Personnel and Administration from 14th November 1989. Posted as Trade Secretary and later as First Trade Secretary in Slovenia, Ljubljana, from 1992 to 1994. First Trade Secretary and later as Counselor at the Italian Embassy in Portugal, Lisbon, from 1996 to 1999. Returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome in February 1985 to serve at the Directorate General for Personnel and Administration on 26 June 2000 and Acting Head of Office IV of the same Directorate from September 2001. Posted to the Permanent Representation of Italy to the UN in New York, on 25 August 2004. Confirmed in the same place as First Counselor on 6 September 2004. Posted as Consul General in Paris, on 15 October 2008. Promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary, on 2 January 2011. Returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome in September 2012 to serve directly under the Director General for Development and Cooperation in charge of the overall coordination for legal affairs. Appointed Deputy Director General for Development Cooperation / Director for General Affairs and administrative cooperation in February 2013. Appointed Deputy Director General for Development Cooperation / Principal Director for general affairs and development cooperation policy orientation in February 2017.

### **Mr. Johan Gély, Head of Division and Head of the Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland**



Johan Gély is head of the Swiss Agency for Development Coordination Water Division (Global Program Water). Positioning water prominently in national, regional and global fora has been the key focus of his career. Mr Gély has advised multi-stakeholder platforms, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in transitional economies, fragile states and emerging market economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Switzerland, he has served at the Federal Department of Economic Affairs and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



## **H.E. Ambassador H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN**



His Excellency Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed is the Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations. He assumed work at the Mission on 17 July 2017. Ambassador Mohamed has been in the Maldives Foreign Service since May 1985, and has held various positions at the Ministry and at Missions overseas. Prior to his appointment as Permanent Representative, Ambassador Mohamed was the Foreign Secretary of the Maldives, a position he held from November 2013 to July 2017. Among the important positions that Ambassador Mohamed held include Additional Secretary (Policy Planning), Director General (Foreign Relations), Director General (External Resources), and Assistant Director (Research). Ambassador Mohamed was the main focal point in

the Government of Maldives for mobilising and coordinating foreign aid to the Maldives in the aftermath of the 2004 Asian tsunami. He was also among the key officials that coordinated national development planning during the period 2005-2007. Ambassador Mohamed represented the Maldives at various international meetings. He was the head of the Maldives delegation at the 17th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, and also headed the Maldives Delegation in the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta in November 2015. Ambassador Mohamed holds a PhD in Diplomatic Studies from the Australian National University, and a Masters in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Leicester, UK.

## **Ms. Alexandra 'Santu' Boethius, Co-Founder, Impact Hub Geneva and Lausanne, Accelerate2030 Strategic Lead**

*(speaking from the floor)*



Alexandra 'Santu' Boëthius is co-founder of Impact Hub Geneva and Lausanne, and where she develops new approaches and programmes connecting the the private sector, the international community and entrepreneurs for sustainable impact. She is also the initiator and strategic lead of the global Accelerate2030 program, aimed at scaling the impact of entrepreneurial solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals, and implemented to-date in 19 developing and emerging economies across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. She holds a MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and MA in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews.

