

Session I

15:00 – 16:15 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

Chair

Ambassador Palma Cerna is currently his country's representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in which he has served as Vice-president for his region since December 2015, taking charge of the Council's Operational Activities for Development Segment, including the responsibility of conducting the Second Phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue on the long-term positioning of the United Nations Development System. As a diplomat he has served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras to UNESCO where he represented his country in five intergovernmental committees. Prior to that he served as Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Government and Justice; advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports; and Special Advisor to the President of Congress.



Moderator

Jomo Kwame Sundaram holds the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, and is Visiting Senior Fellow at Khazanah Research Institute and Visiting Fellow at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University. He was Professor at the University of Malaya (1986-2004), Founder-Chair of International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), UN Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development (2005-12), Research Coordinator for the G24 Intergovernmental Group on International Monetary Affairs and Development during 2006-12, and Assistant Director General for Economic and Social Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (2012-15). He received the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.



Speakers



Until his appointment as **the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah** was his country's Minister for Transport and Aviation since December 2010. Before that, he served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation from 2008 to 2010.

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Minah served in various capacities within the United Nations system for 12 years, from 1996 to 2008, most recently as Legal Adviser to the United Nations Integrated Office for Sierra Leone (2006 to 2008). He was a legal Officer in the Administrative Unit of the Office for Human Resources Management (OHRM) at Headquarters from June 2005 to June 2006, and as First Officer in the Office of the OHRM Assistant Secretary-General between 2002 and 2005.

From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Minah was a Legal Adviser in the Office of the Director of Administration for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor in Dili. He also served as a Legal Officer in the Office of the mission's Principal Legal Adviser, from 2000 to 2001, and as Legal Affairs Officer in the Office of the Chief Legal Officer/Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, between 1996 and 1999.

Mr. Minah obtained both his master's degree in public international law as well as his Bachelor of Laws from London University. Born in London on 17 February 1965, Mr. Minah is married to Rosemarie Hoosein.



Jaime Alfredo Miranda Flamenco

Under the current administration of President Salvador Sanchez Cerén, Mr. Miranda Flamenco has held the position of Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation, and he has been head of the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation since its creation in 2009. In the administration of former President Mauricio Funes he held the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs from August 2013 to May 2014. He has served as Program Coordinator to the German Freidrich Ebert foundation of El Salvador (FES), foreign affairs officer to the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), and General director to the Salvadoran Association for Integral Development (ASDI). In addition, he has also been Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Society of Consultants and Advisors and Co-Director of the "Productivity-Diversification-Market" project.

He holds a Degree in economics from the Central American University "Jose Simeon Cañas" (UCA) and a Masters in Business Administration from the Central American Institute for Business Administration, INCAE. He was born in the municipality of Aguilares, Department of San Salvador, on August 12, 1955.



Mark Van de Vreken is Deputy Chief of Staff for Development Cooperation to Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post Alexander De Croo. He joined the Belgian diplomatic service in 2006 and held postings as Political Counsellor to Moscow and Deputy Chief of Mission to Warsaw. Prior to joining the diplomatic service, he served as policy advisor to the Belgian Foreign Ministers Karel De Gucht and Louis Michel, as well as to the Minister-president of Flanders Patrick Dewael. He studied Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and holds Master degrees from the University of Kent at Canterbury and the Johns Hopkins

University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is a former Fulbright, AmCham Belgium and Chevening scholar.



Anita Nayar is Director of Regions Refocus, an initiative that co-constructs progressive and feminist policies with civil society, governments, sub-regional alliances, and the UN. She has worked nationally and internationally on issues including women's human rights, economic globalization, development, and climate justice. Most recently she served as Chief of the UN Non- Governmental Liaison Service in New York and on the Executive Committee of the South-based feminist network, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Prior to this she engaged in doctoral research at the University of Sussex looking at the social and ecological consequences of the commercialization of indigenous medicine in India. As Associate Director of the Women's Environment and

Development Organization (WEDO), Anita coordinated the Women's Caucus in six major UN Conferences of the 1990s and their follow-up processes, bringing a gender perspective to bear on inter-governmental negotiations and agreements.



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. On 1 January 2011, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, a physician and public health expert, became only the fourth Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. He holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Before this appointment, Dr. Osotimehin was Nigeria's Minister of Health. Prior to that, he was Director-General of Nigeria's National Agency for the Control of AIDS, which coordinates HIV and AIDS work in a country of about 180 million people.



Prof. José Antonio Alonso Rodríguez, He is Professor of Applied Economics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is member of the Committee for Development Policy at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Development Cooperation Council at Spain and the European Advisory Group of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His main research areas focus on growth and development, international economic relations and foreign aid policies. His most recent books are: (with J.A. Ocampo), *Development Cooperation in Times of Crisis*, Columbia University Press, 2012; *Alternative Development Strategies for the Post 2015 Era* (with G.A. Cornia and R. Vos), Bloomsbury Academic, 2013; and *Global Governance and Rules for the Post-2015 Era* (with J.A. Ocampo), Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.



Minh-Thu Pham is currently Executive Director for Policy at the United Nations Foundation, where she develops and leads strategic initiatives to strengthen the UN's ability to solve global problems, including on the Sustainable Development Goals and peace and conflict. She has also taught international policymaking at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and has over 15 years of experience in foreign policy, international diplomacy, and fieldwork.

She has served in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon as policy adviser in the Strategic Planning Unit, managing initiatives to strengthen the UN and improve relations between the U.S. and the UN. Minh-Thu has advised the UN special envoy for malaria and the top international official in Bosnia and worked for Save the Children and other organizations in Ethiopia, Vietnam and Washington, DC. She was once a crew photographer for the BBC series Planet Earth and was a documentary photographer.

Minh-Thu is a fellow of the Truman National Security Project; was selected a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations in 2007; and serves on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families. She holds an MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a BA in History from Duke University where she was a Benjamin N. Duke Leadership Scholar. She was born in Vietnam and lives in New York City with her husband and daughter.

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Contact: dcf@un.org

DCF Secretariat

Development Cooperation Policy Branch

Office for ECOSOC Support &

Coordination, UNDESA

UN Secretariat Building, 25th floor, New
York, NY 10017

