Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés is the President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, has more than 20 years of multilateral experience in international negotiations, peace, security, defence, disarmament, human rights, indigenous peoples, gender equality, sustainable development, environment, biodiversity, climate change and multilateral cooperation. She has served Ecuador as Minister of Foreign Affairs (twice), Minister of National Defence, and Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage.

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since September 2013. She serves as the Seventy-Fourth President of the Economic and Social Council. Ambassador King comes to diplomacy from the private sector, has lived and worked in several Caribbean countries, the United States of America, and China. She is a small business owner, business strategist, the author of three books, and a management accountant with more than two decades of professional experience. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and chemistry, is the immediate past chair of the Investment Promotions Agency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Invest SVG), and a former Honorary Consul for Portugal to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

H.E. António Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. Having witnessed the suffering of the most vulnerable people on earth, in refugee camps and in war zones, the Secretary-General is determined to make human dignity the core of his work, and to serve as a peace broker, a bridge-builder and a promoter of reform and innovation. Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, during which time he was heavily involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor.
H.E. MR. PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH
Prime Minister, Republic of Mauritius

H.E. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth is a Mauritian politician who is Prime Minister of Mauritius, in office since 2017, and also holds another portfolio as Minister of Finance. He has occupied various positions in both government and opposition since 2000. He was Minister of Agriculture from 2000 to 2003, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance from 2003 to 2005 while he served in Navin Ramgoolam’s cabinet from 2010 to 2011 as Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

H.E. MR. ANATOLIO NDOUNG MBA
Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba is the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ndong Mba was a consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), serving as the agency’s representative in Djibouti from November 2008 to February 2009. Between 2004 and 2008, he served as FAO representative in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe, resident in Luanda, serving also as Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator from March 2007 to July 2008, when he retired from the agency. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Ndong Mba was Deputy Regional Representative of FAO for Africa and Representative in Ghana, having previously served as Representative in Guinea-Bissau between 1997 and 2001.

MS. BIENCE GAWANAS
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General

Ms. Bience Gawanas was appointed Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General in January 2018. Her former positions include that of Special Advisor to the Namibian Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and Special Advisor to the Namibian Minister of Health and Social Services.

Other career achievements of which USG Gawanas is especially proud include her role as the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Social Affairs, a position for which she was elected for two terms by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2003 and 2008. In that capacity, she developed policy instruments, projects and programmes on social development, including the Social Policy Framework and the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. In partnership with Member States and UN agencies, she initiated pioneering activities such as the launch of the AU’s Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), a movement for maternal and child health that mobilizes global, regional and country-level support from governments, civil society, and community leaders.
H.E. Ms. CESSOUMA MINATA SAMATE
African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs

H.E. Cessouma Minata Samate is a Burkina Faso diplomat. She was elected as Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission in 2016. Ambassador Samate served as the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Ethiopia, Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). She also served as the State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, in charge of Regional Cooperation in Burkina Faso.

OVERALL FACILITATOR

MS. EBBA KALONDO
AUC Spokesperson

Ms. Ebba Kalondo is the spokesperson in the Chairperson’s office of the African Union Commission. Prior to that, she has held several senior positions in strategic and Risk Communications at the World Health Organization, Foundation Hirondelle, France24, and Reuters.