SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION I

AFRICAN SOLIDARITY:
BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOSTING REFUGEES

DR CHALOKA BEYANI
Professor of Law and former researcher on human rights of refugees

Dr. Chaloka Beyani is a Professor of International Law in the Law Department at the London School of Economics (LSE) and Political Science. He joined the Department of Law at LSE in 1996 and lectures in international law and human rights. He is a member of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights and Chair of its Advisory Board, and a member of the Centre for Climate Change at LSE. He is also the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. He was formerly a Research Fellow at Wolfson college, Oxford, with Lectureships in Law at Exeter and St. Catherine’s colleges, Oxford, and a Crown Prince of Jordan Fellow, Queen Elizabeth House, as part of the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford. He is also a Visiting Professor of International Law at the University of Toronto and Santa Clara University.

Dr. Chaloka is a recognized international and United Nations expert on internally displaced persons, population transfers, mercenaries and private military companies, sexual and reproductive health, the human rights-based approach to development, climate change, making treaties, and making constitutions. He has served as a legal adviser and expert to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, the European Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the African Union.

H.E. MR. ADONIA AYEBARE
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations is a Ugandan journalist and diplomat who currently serves as Uganda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, effective March 2017. From January 2013, until March 2017, he served as the Senior Adviser on Peace and Security at the African Union’s Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York City. Since 2010 until 2012, he served as Deputy Head of Uganda’s mission to the UN, based in New York City. He also served as the Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires at the Uganda’s mission at the United Nations, until 2008. In 2009, he was appointed as Director of the Africa Program at the “International Peace Institute”, a think tank, based in New York, serving there until 2011.
HE. MR. TAYE ATSKE SELASSIE AMDE
Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Taye Atske Selassie Amde is the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations. Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Amde served as Ambassador to Egypt from January 2017 to July 2018, having previously occupied two senior posts in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs – State Minister for Political Affairs from October 2015 to November 2016 and Director General for American Affairs from December 2010 to September 2015.

He was his country’s Consul-General in Los Angeles from October 2002 to November 2010, Minister Counsellor in its Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 2000 to 2002, and Counsellor in the Embassy in Stockholm.

HE. MR. ALIFEI MOUSTAPHA
Permanent Representative of Chad

HE. Mr. Ali Alifei Moustapha, is the Permanent Representative of Chad. Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Moustapha was Chad’s Minister for Communications between February and August 2016. From August 2015 to February 2016, he served as Minister for Environment and Fishery. In addition to his position as President of the Top Communications Board from 2010 to 2015, Ambassador Moustapha also held other governmental posts, including that of Adviser on International Relations to the Head of State, from 2008 to 2009, Deputy Mayor of N’Djamena in 2005, Minister for Urbanism and Habitat in 2003 and Secretary of State for National Defence in 1992.

H.E. MS. CESSOUMA MINATE SAMATE
AU 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.
MR. RAOUF MAZAOU
UNHCR Director for Africa

Mr. Raouf Mazou is the current UNHCR Director for Africa. Previously he served as the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kenya since September 2013. For the four years prior to this, he was a Deputy Director in the Africa Bureau, covering the East and Horn of Africa Region. Mr. Mazou has previously occupied various senior positions, and has served as Deputy Director of the Division of Operations Support and as Head of the Emergency and Security Service, a position in which he oversaw UNHCR’s global emergency management and staff security interests.

Having served UNHCR for over 25 years, Mr. Mazou has worked in the field in many capacities, starting in the early nineties in the Great Lakes Region and subsequently in West Africa, in the context of the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugee crises.

He has garnered expertise in various areas of UNHCR’s activities, particularly in emergency response, repatriation and the development of strategies aimed at bridging the gap between relief and development, such as the new approach to refugee programming in Kalobeyei, Turkana County, initiated in late 2014. The approach, which brings together development and humanitarian actors, aims at supporting economic integration to promote self-reliance of both refugees and host communities by providing them with better livelihoods opportunities and enhanced service delivery.

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.