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.

MS. URSULA MUELLER
Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Ms. Ursula Mueller is the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Ms. Mueller was appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and began her assignment in March 2017. Prior to her current role as Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Mueller spent over 30 years working in international affairs, global issues and development financing. She served as the Executive Director of Germany to the World Bank Group from September 2014 to February 2017, where she was responsible for strategy, policy and budgeting, and helped to foster closer cooperation between the World Bank and the United Nations.

ROBERT MARDINI
Permanent Observer and Head of Delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations

Mr. Robert Mardini, is the Permanent Observer and Head of Delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations since September 2018. Prior to his latest appointment, Mr. Mardini was the ICRC’s Regional Director for the Near and Middle East since July 2012, overseeing strategic guidance for the organization’s operations across its nine delegations in the region. Between 2010 and 2012, he served as ICRC Deputy Director-General, a role in which he contributed to the International Committee’s organizational development and oversaw major institution-wide projects, while helping to guide its strategic direction on management as well as operational and programming issues. Mr. Mardini headed the ICRC’s Water and Habitat Unit from 2007 to 2010 and was its Deputy Head from 2003 to 2007. He has also served as the organization’s Acting Water and Habitat Coordinator in Iraq, a Water and Habitat Engineer and Programme Coordinator, also in that country, and as a Water and Habitat Engineer in Rwanda.
Dr. Kyle Farmbry is the dean of the Graduate School-Newark and an associate professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University-Newark. Mr. Farmbry’s current research interests are in the areas of private and independent sector entrepreneurial development, the role of the law in institution building, and intersectoral roles in crisis, disaster, and risk management. He has presented his research throughout the United States, as well as in Australia, The United Kingdom, Sweden, The Netherlands, and South Africa. He has also served as a training facilitator for the U.S. Department of State in Kenya and Malawi.

Ms. Zahra Abdi Mohamed, Director, Durable Solutions Unit, Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, Somalia.

Dr. Manase Lomole Waya, Chairperson, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, South Sudan.
MS. WAFAA SAEED
Deputy Director, Operations and Advocacy Division, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Ms. Wafaa Saeed, Deputy Director, Operations and Advocacy Division, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

LEAD PRESENTER

DR. CHALOKA BEYANI
Associate Professor of Law, London School of Economics and Political Science

Chaloka Beyani is an Associate Professor of International Law in the Law Department, 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.

MODERATOR

MS. EBBA KALONDO
Spokesperson, the Chairperson’s office of the African Union Commission

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.