



## ECOSOC • Integration Segment (27–29 May, 2014)

### SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

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#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL INTEGRATION SEGMENT

##### Biographies

27-29 May, 2014

ECOSOC Chamber

28 May, 10:00 – 12:00

Interactive dialogue: Urban prosperity and urban inequalities

#### Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Moderator



Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira of the Republic of Rwanda is the Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for UN-HABITAT. In this role, she has been providing critical leadership to promote equitable, productive and environmentally sustainable cities worldwide. Before joining UN-Habitat at the end of 2011, Dr. Kirabo was the Governor of Eastern Province, the largest province in Rwanda with a population of 2.5 million. Previously, she was Mayor of Kigali City (2006 - 2011), one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world. In recognition of the high level of cleanliness, greenness, safety and the sustainable, affordable housing initiatives combined with pro-poor urban employment opportunities, under Ms. Kirabo's leadership, Kigali won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award in 2008. Prior to her position as Mayor, Ms. Kirabo was an Elected Member of Parliament (and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee in charge of land use and management, settlement and environment), she actively participated in the legislative and over-sight functions of parliament in addition to community mobilization.

#### Panelists

#### H.E. Mr. Mpho Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg (via video-link)



At the age of 41, Parks Tau has already served for more than 10 years in the most demanding portfolios in the City's mayoral committee, in addition to having deep roots in community activism and political structures. In the 1980s, he played a leadership role as SRC president at Pace Commercial College; he was also the president of the Soweto Youth Congress. At 25, he was appointed the chairperson of the Urban Development Committee of the then Southern Local Metropolitan Council (SLMC), where he was responsible for the planning function. As the deputy chairperson of the SLMC's Executive Committee, he was a driving force in the Transformation Lekgotla that eventually resulted in the creation of a united Johannesburg. He was appointed a member of the mayoral committee following the first democratic local government elections in 2000. He was entrusted with a wide range of portfolios – development planning, transportation and environment. The City's Spatial Development Framework, its Environmental Management Plan and its Integrated Transport Plan were embarked on during his tenure at the helm of the portfolio. In 2004, he was given the responsibility of the City's finance and economic development portfolios. As the head of Johannesburg's finances, he presided over the growth of the City's annual budget from a mere R8,2-billion to more than R28-billion for the 2010/11 financial year – reflecting Johannesburg's continuing success in delivering services to communities and creating a climate for economic growth and development.

**Mr. Paul Carrasco, Prefect of Azuay, Ecuador**



Paul Carrasco is the Prefect of the Province of Azuay, Ecuador and President of the United Regions Organization-Global Forum of Regional Associations (ORU-FOGAR). His representation of intermediate governments as key actors for the development of territories has also occurred as Secretary General of the Latin American Organization of Intermediate Governments (OLAGI), organization that he chaired from 2008 to 2011. He is also a member of the Expert Advisory Committee of the United Nations Center for Regional Development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Ms. Zoubida Allaoua, Acting Vice President and Network Head, Sustainable Development, World Bank**



Ms. Zoubida Allaoua, has over 20 years' experience with the World Bank, since she joined in 1988 through the Young Professionals Program. She has since then held various positions as Economist covering West Africa, India and Pakistan. In 2002, she was appointed Sector Manager, Private and Financial Sector Development for the Middle East and North Africa Region. In May 2009, she was appointed Director for Urban and Disaster Risk Management Department (UDR), which is the global practice leading the Bank's agenda on Sustainable Urbanization, City services, Resilience and Disaster Risk Management. In December 2013, Ms. Allaoua was appointed Acting Vice President for the Sustainable Development Network (SDN), a responsibility which she is carrying in addition to Managing the Urban and Disaster Risk Management

Department, and also serving as Acting Director of Strategy and Operations for Sustainable Development Network (SDN).

**Ms. Carmen Griffiths, Executive Director, Construction Resource and Development Center, Kingston, Jamaica (Representing Women Major Group)**

Carmen Griffiths, Executive Director of the Construction Resource & Development Centre (CRDC) in Jamaica has been active for over twenty years organizing women in shelter and construction activities, placing them at the forefront of ensuring that their families are decently and safely housed in communities and have access to basic infrastructure. In the past decade, climate change and other forces have required Carmen to organize CRDC to function as a resource to hurricane devastated communities, led by grassroots women. Rising to the occasion, they have taught large numbers of at risk and disaster struck community women to mitigate the impact of hurricanes through affordable, hurricane safe roofing and construction practices. The safety and wellbeing of women living and working in urban centres has led Carmen Griffiths to head one of the Councils of the community crime initiative being co-ordinated by the local law enforcement agency and community groups. In addition, she was a part of the task force on the Community Security Initiative (CSI) a programme launched by the previous administration to work with inner city groups prone to violence.

**Dr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to UN agencies in Nairobi and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat**



H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynár is the Ambassador of Slovakia with residence in Nairobi and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat. He presented his credentials to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Joan Clos on 20 February 2012. Since May 2011, he has also served as Chair of the Governing Board of the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT, <http://issat.dcaf.ch>) in Geneva, Switzerland, which is part of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF, [www.dcaf.ch](http://www.dcaf.ch)). He was re-elected to the second term (2014-2016) in Geneva on 3 December 2013. Representing the Eastern European Group of States in the UN, on 4 December 2013 he was elected Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat for the 2014-2015 biennium. Ambassador

Mlynar was previously Head of the Project Team for Security Sector Reform (SSR) within the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2011). As Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York (2004-2009), he was the Political Coordinator of Slovakia's diplomatic team on the UN Security Council (2006-2007), including in the context of the Slovak chairmanships of the UN Group of Friends of SSR, the UN Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Issues and Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review. In addition, he twice served as Deputy Chef de Cabinet for the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs (2002-2004 and 2010-2011) and head of units at the UN Department and at Diplomatic Protocol of his Ministry.