

## High Level Partners visit to Chad - Delegation

21 to 25 October 2024

### **Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**



Ms. Elizabeth Spehar of Canada is the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. With more than 35 years of experience in international and political affairs, Ms. Spehar has worked in United Nations Headquarters and in the field, leading political, development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives. Most recently, since 2016, she was the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), also serving as Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus. Previously, Ms. Spehar was Director of the Policy and Mediation Division in the former Department of Political Affairs, now DPPA, where she worked on policy and operational matters related to conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and gender mainstreaming. Prior to this, she was the Director for the Americas and Europe Division and Director of the Europe Division in the Department of Political Affairs, engaging extensively on key political issues facing the region. She also served briefly as Interim Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP in 2008.

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Spehar was a senior official with the Organization of American States (OAS) for more than 12 years, working to promote democracy and develop the organization's dialogue and conflict resolution instruments.

Ms. Spehar holds a Bachelor of Arts with honours from Queen's University in Canada, a master's degree in international affairs from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, also in Canada, and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures from the University of Pau in France. She speaks English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Croatian. Born in Port Arthur, Canada, she has a daughter.

### **Brian Williams, Chief Financing for Peacebuilding, Peacebuilding Support Office**



Brian Williams has worked in the development field for close to 30 years. In 2021 he served in the United Nations Development Coordination Office as the ad interim Chief of Policy and Programming, following on from serving as UN Resident Coordinator in Albania from December 2015 to mid-2020. From 2010 - 2015 he was the Chief of the Peacebuilding Fund in the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and from 2001 to 2008 he worked on the global HIV crisis, as UNAIDS Coordinator in Myanmar and in Geneva headquarters. Since 1990, Mr. Williams has lived in and worked on humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. He has worked with the United Nations, USAID, CARE International, and the International Rescue Committee.

His wife, Julie, also works for the UN (OCHA), and they have two children. Mr. Williams has a Masters from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and an undergraduate degree in engineering from Harvard University.

**Kenya (PBC Vice-Chair), Darius Nzangi Mutua, Policy Advisory at the Kenyan Mission to the UN**



Darius possess an LLB Bachelor of Laws from the University of London UK, Post-Graduate Diploma in Strategic and Security Studies from the University of Nairobi, and a Master of Arts - Security, Intelligence & Diplomacy with distinction from the University of Buckingham UK. He has over 20 years of experience in Kenya's legal, security, and diplomatic sectors, and began as a criminal defense lawyer in 2004, focusing on terrorism, drug-related cases and election petitions. In 2008, he joined the State Department for Internal Security, advancing from investigator to Senior Policy Analyst, leading international negotiations on legal assistance and intelligence sharing. From 2013 to 2015, Darius served as a Counter-Terrorism Analyst and Trainer at NCTC – Kenya, later becoming the Head of Operational Training managing a team of Trainers in CT programmes.

Since 2019, Darius has been a Counsellor at the Kenya Mission to the UN, in charge of CT files, Deputy Political Coordinator during Kenya's tenure in the UNSC, Deputy Head of First Committee and Security Council files and the Policy Advisor to the PR advising on geopolitical strategies. As a Counsellor at Kenya Mission, he has been directly involved in UN Security Council (UNSC) matters, which includes significant experience with UN sanctions regimes. During Kenya's tenure on the UNSC, Darius served as the Deputy Political Coordinator and CT Focal Point. Additionally, as a Policy Advisor to the PR, he has advised on Kenya's position on conflict situations and peacekeeping operations in Africa in relation to the work of the UNSC, and the geopolitical implications of sanctions, ensuring compliance with international legal standards.

**Canada, Krista House, Deputy Director of the Peace and Stabilization Program**



Krista House is currently the Deputy Director in the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program at Global Affairs Canada, managing international programming in peacebuilding, mediation, peace support operations, and Women, Peace and Security. Prior to her current role, Ms. House was the Deputy Director, Natural Disaster Response and Humanitarian programming for Global Affairs Canada. She has over 20 years experience in humanitarian assistance, peace support operations and peacekeeping training and has worked in Guatemala, Ecuador, South Sudan, Sudan and South Africa. She managed Canada's response to natural disasters in Haiti, Nepal and Ecuador and managed complex humanitarian programming in the Americas, Asia, Sudan and South Sudan. She served on staff at the Southern African Migration Project at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, managing an interdisciplinary

team focused on southern African migration. From 2000 to 2005, Ms. House was the Associate Program Officer for Population and Forced Migration at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York, managing over 200 grants in the fields of population, reproductive health, and forced migration. Ms. House holds degrees in geography, with specializations in demography, forced migration, and international development.

**Denmark, Kasper Thams Olsen, Deputy Director for Migration, Peace and Stabilization**



Since 2024, Mr. Thams Olsen is the Deputy Director for Migrations, Peace and Stabilisation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served at the Danish Ministry of Defense, Director of the COVID-19 Coordination Unit from 2020 to 2021, Political Advisor to the EU Delegation to Somalia from 2014 to 2016, Team Leader for Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula and First Secretary at the Embassy in Kabul from 2009 to 2011. From 2008 to 2009 he was the Head of the South East Asia section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and prior to that, he worked in Uganda as Advisor on Democracy, Justice and Peace.

**Finland, Ambassador Petri Salo, Special Envoy for the Sahel and West Africa**



Ambassador Petri Salo has held the position of Special Envoy for the Sahel and West Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland since March 2021. Between 2019-2020, he was a Senior Financial Advisor in the North Africa Sub-Directorate. From 2016 to 2019, he worked in the Communications Directorate as the head of the celebrations of the Centenary of Finland's Independence and the Centenary of the MFA of Finland. Prior to that, between 2012-16, he was the Ambassador of Finland to South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Mauritius. From 2008 to 2012, he served as Ambassador (roving) of Finland to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

He has also worked in Finnish diplomatic representations in Sofia, Bonn, Berlin, Moscow and St. Petersburg. At the Directorate of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he worked on Russia's relations with the EU, political and economic relations as well as regional cooperation. Married, three children.

**Germany, Anne-Sophie Beckedorf, Deputy Head of Division, Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding**



Since August 2024, Dr. Anne-Sophie Beckedorf has been the Deputy Head of Division “Stabilisation, crisis prevention, peacebuilding” at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Before her current posting, Anne-Sophie was the deputy head of the German Representative Office in Ramallah from 2022 to 2024. Previous postings at the Federal Foreign Office were at the state secretary’s office and at the unit for parliamentary and cabinet affairs. From 2018, Anne-Sophie worked at the German Embassy in Beirut.

Before joining the Federal Foreign Office in 2023, Anne-Sophie wrote a PhD thesis on political water management in Sudan, taught at Bayreuth University and studied geography and development at the universities of Bayreuth, Sussex and Geneva (HEID).

**The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Cornelieke Keizer, acting Special Envoy Horn of Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa Department**



Ms. Keizer is Head of Section for the Horn of Africa at the Sub-Sahara Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Prior to this position she served as Senior Policy Advisor at the Taskforce for Women’s Rights & Gender Equality at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, focusing on multilateral processes and diplomacy as well as direct financing of women’s rights organisations. She was also the Political Coordinator of WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform and Director of the Women’s Leadership for Peace & Security at the Catholic Organisation for Relief & Development Aid (CORDAID). In this role she focused on amplifying the voices of local women in conflict affected areas to influence and create synergies between national and international processes on peace and security. Cornelieke also served as the Director of Equalinrights where she integrated gender equality and ESC-rights into development practices. She has worked as an Academic Lecturer at the Free University Medical Center (VUMC) in Amsterdam and as a Research Coordinator for the Asian regional network Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM-Asia) focusing on the nexus between gender equality, migration, and human rights.

**Sweden, Dr. Jannie Lilja, Deputy Director and Head of the Conflict, Migration and Gender Equality Division**



Dr Jannie Lilja was previously the Director of Studies for Peace and Development Research at SIPRI. Before that, she served as a senior fragility specialist with the World Bank's Fragility Conflict Violence Group. Prior to joining the World Bank she was a Swedish diplomat and researcher with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University.

Her areas of expertise cover peacebuilding, war and peace dynamics, disinformation, resilience, negotiations, and development in conflict settings.

She has published several articles and book chapters on these topics. Jannie has contributed to the development of peacebuilding policy, including SDG 16, in her former capacity as lead on security and development in the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She has also served as Swedish Delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

**UK, Jakesh Mahey, Head of Conflict Prevention**



Jakesh is currently Head of the Conflict and Mass Atrocity Prevention Team in the FCDO's Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation. Jakesh's previous roles government roles have included postings in Northern Nigeria, Jerusalem, Turkey and South Sudan, leading teams working on governance, security, humanitarian and development programmes.

His policy roles in HQ have included conflict policy, security and justice, modern slavery, and national security. Prior to joining the Civil Service, Jakesh worked for several NGOs including WaterAid in northern Mozambique for several years. Jakesh is from and lives in London with his wife, two teenage children and a dog.