

# Speaker Biographies



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— THE 67<sup>TH</sup> —  
**UN DPI / NGO**  
**CONFERENCE**

# Speaker Biographies

**Wednesday, 22 August 2018**

## Opening Plenary

### **Ms. Alison Smale**



Ms. Smale was appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations Department of Public Information, by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 9 August 2017. At that time, Ms. Smale was Chief of Bureau of The New York Times in Berlin, having been a journalist FOR almost 40 years. She has a proven track record as reporter, editor and senior leader. Appointed Executive Editor of the International Herald Tribune (IHT) Paris, in 2008, she is the first and only woman to have held that post. Ms. Smale went to the IHT in 2004 as Managing Editor from The New York Times, where she had been Deputy Foreign Editor since 2002, having joined The Times in 1998 as Weekend Foreign Editor. Earlier in her career Ms. Smale reported for United Press International and The Associated Press as Bureau Chief for Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna (1986-1998) and Correspondent, Moscow and Bonn (1983-1986, 1978-1983). Ms. Smale studied in Bristol, Munich and at Stanford University and holds a BA in German and Politics, and an MA in journalism. In 2009 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law from Bristol University.

### **Mr. Bruce Knotts**

Bruce Knotts is chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and director of the Unitarian Universalist Association, United Nations Office. Mr. Knotts worked for Raytheon in Saudi Arabia and on a World Bank contract in Somalia, before he joined the Department of State as a United States diplomat in 1984. Bruce had diplomatic assignments in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and The Gambia, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission. While in Cote d'Ivoire, Bruce served as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for West Africa covering all 16 nations of West Africa. In 2004, Bruce was elected to the Board of Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA). Bruce retired from the Foreign Service in 2007 and joined the Unitarian Universalist Association, United Nations Office as its Executive Director at the beginning of 2008.



### **Ms. Madison Ross**

Madison Ross is the co-chair of the Youth sub-committee, and a member of DPI NGO Youth Representatives Steering Committee and a Mercado Global's Youth Representative. As an international business student at LIM College, Madison focuses on responsible consumption and production in the business and fashion industries. Her NGO, Mercado Global, is headquartered in Guatemala and works with female artisans while promoting the UN's global goals. In collaboration with the NGO Relations Unit, Madison helped organize last year's UN Fashion Show as well as a briefing that showcased sustainable designers from around the world and discussed the challenges of applying sustainability in the fashion industry.



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## Ms. Shermin Luo



Shermin Luo is the co-chair of the Youth sub-committee, a member of DPI NGO Youth Representatives Steering Committee and an NGO Youth Representative for the Global Youth Mentorship Initiative (GYMI). She co-founded the nonprofit GYMI, which is dedicated to bridging educational disparities by providing underprivileged students with mentorship focused on independent learning, interdisciplinary studies and critical thinking. Shermin also served as the COO for the social venture Ipromoter Image, which is an AI-powered personal fashion assistant that helps professional women in developing countries dress for success. Shermin graduated with a B.S. in operations research engineering management system from Columbia University and is pursuing her master's degree in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

## Ms. Penny Abeywardena



Penny Abeywardena is New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs. As head of the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, she leads the City's global platform for promoting its goals for a more just and accessible society, showcasing the diversity of New Yorkers and sharing policies and best practices with the world. Prior to joining Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration, Penny was the Director of Girls and Women Integration at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), a non-partisan organization that convened global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Before joining CGI, Penny worked in both development and programmatic areas for Human

Rights Watch, the Funding Exchange and the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy. In 2017, Penny was named by the French American Foundation as a Young Leader. She is a World Economic Forum 2016 Young Global Leader, and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She serves on the Board of Directors of the United Nations Development Corporation. In her personal time, Penny serves on the Innovation Advisory Committee for 92Y and on the Founding Member Committee of Lincoln Center's Global Exchange.

## Ms. Winnie Byanyima | Conference Chair

Winnie Byanyima is Executive Director of Oxfam International, a confederation of 20 organizations working in more than 90 countries empowering people to create a future that is secure, just and free from poverty. Ms. Byanyima is a global women's rights leader, human rights defender and a global



authority on economic inequality. Prior to Oxfam, Ms. Byanyima led the directorates on gender and development at the UN Development Programme and the African Union Commission. She served eleven years in the Ugandan Parliament. Ms. Byanyima led Uganda's first parliamentary women's caucus and co-founded Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), a leading women's rights organization in Uganda. Born in Mbarara, Uganda, her activism was first inspired by the courageous women in her village and of her family. She continues to support women's rights and social justice movements around the world. Ms. Byanyima currently serves on the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency in 2018, and the Global Commission on the Future of Work established by the International Labour Organization. She is Chair of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa Regional



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Strategy Group, and has previously served as Co-Chair of the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos. She has recently served on the United Nations (UN) High-Level Panels on Access to Medicines and on Women's Economic Empowerment. She serves on numerous public boards and global advisory bodies, including the World Bank's Gender Advisory Board.

## **H.E. Ambassador Ms. Martha Pobee**



Prior to her appointment, Ms. Pobee has been a career diplomat, serving in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for almost 30 years, most recently as Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'affaires at the Ghana High Commission in Pretoria since 2012. Before holding that position, she was Director of the Information and Public Affairs Bureau at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2012 and Head of Chancery at the Ghanaian Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 2006 to 2010. Ms. Pobee was Acting Director of the bureaux for Human Resources and Administration, in 2006, and for Information, Culture and Linguistics, from 2004 and 2006. Posted to the Ghanaian Embassy in Tel Aviv, she served as Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission from 2002 to 2004, and as Chargé d'affaires from 2000 to 2002. She served as Acting Director of the Personnel and Training Bureau from 1998 to 2000, having been previously posted to Ghana's Permanent Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva from 1995 to 1998 and to the Embassy in Moscow, where she served as First Secretary from 1994 to 1995. Between 1993 and 1994, she was assigned to the Policy and Planning Research Bureau. She began at the Ministry in 1989 assigned to the International Organizations and Conferences Bureau, where she served until 1992.

## **Mr. Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho**

Ambassador Gómez Camacho was appointed Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York in February of 2016. He is a career diplomat since 1988, and has held different positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and abroad. Amongst them, Head of Mission to the European Union and Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg; Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva; and Ambassador to Singapore, Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam. Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho holds a Master's Degree in International Law from Georgetown University.



## **Mr. Elliott Harris**

Elliott Harris has served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the past three years. He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 and has since been the Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group. In September 2008, Mr. Harris became the IMF's Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department. In this capacity, he was named Vice Chair of the High-Level Committee on Programs of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination. From 2007-2008 he headed the Development Issues Division, which in addition to these areas, also was responsible for the IMFs relations with the Development Committee. Additionally, Mr. Harris became an Advisor in the



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Policy Development and Review Department (PDR) in 2002, was named Chief of the West Africa II Division of the African Department in 2000, joined the Fiscal Affairs Department in 1995, rejoined the African Department in November 1996 as Assistant to the Director, and joined the Fund in the Economist Program (EP) in 1988.

## Ms. Elizabeth Cousens



Elizabeth Cousens is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the UN Foundation. Before joining the UN Foundation, Elizabeth Cousens served as U.S. Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council and Alternate Representative to the UN General Assembly (2012-14). She previously served as Principal Policy Advisor and Counselor to the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Susan Rice (2009-12). In this capacity, she was lead U.S. negotiator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including representing the United States in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. During her stint as ambassador, she led U.S. diplomacy at the UN on human rights, humanitarian, social and environmental issues; served on the boards of UN agencies, funds, and programmes, and was the U.S. representative to the UN Peacebuilding Commission. She was also sherpa to Ambassador Rice for the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. Cousens has lived around the world, serving with UN political missions in Nepal and the Middle East and working as an analyst in conflict zones, including Bosnia and Haiti. Her prior experience includes Director of Strategy for the HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue which promotes and conducts mediation of armed conflict; Vice President of the International Peace Institute, where she led

initiatives on global crisis management and UN reform; and Director of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, a research group that provides country and regional expertise to the UN on conflict and crisis situations.

## Mr. Nyle DiMarco

Nyle DiMarco is an actor, producer, model and activist. He is a native New Yorker and was born into a large multigenerational Deaf family. He is an alumni of Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts University in the world for the Deaf, with a B.A. in mathematics. Nyle DiMarco has been breaking down barriers and winning over audiences since he burst onto the scene in 2014. As a fan favorite on cycle 22 of AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL, DiMarco became first Deaf contestant on the hit CW series. Shortly after winning the competition, he signed with Wilhelmina Models and recently walked for Giorgio Armani at Milan Fashion Week S/S17. He also went on to win ABC's Dancing With The Stars, being the first Deaf winner. In early 2018 he joined the Broadway revival of Children of a Lesser God, as a producer. This is DiMarco's first producing credit, bringing a unique perspective as a Deaf artist and invaluable insight to telling such a meaningful story. DiMarco is a firm believer in creating opportunities where they are not available, in front of and behind the camera. He is currently in development on scripted and non-scripted programs, expanding his creative reach and platform. As a founder of the Nyle DiMarco Foundation and an honorary spokesman for Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids, Nyle is passionate about language and literacy and advocacy within the Deaf Community.



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## Ms. Kehkashan Basu



Kehkashan Basu, the Youth Ambassador for the World Future Council, is a young environmental and social activist living in the United Arab Emirates whose sole objective is to involve and mobilize children and youth in the movement for a sustainable and green future around the world. She was the youngest participating international delegate at Rio+20 held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Kehkashan is the founder of a youth organization, GREEN HOPE UAE, which seeks to provide a networking platform to children and youth in the region to carry forward the Rio legacy. She is a Climate Justice Ambassador for Plant-for-the-Planet and in her role as the Academy Coordinator conducted the first Plant-for-the-Planet in the UAE which inducted scores of school children in the fight for climate justice. She is an active member of United Nations Major Groups for Children & Youth (UNCSD MGCY), UNEP TUNZA and the Emirates Environmental Group. Kehkashan was the Global Coordinator for Children & Youth and a member of UNEP's Major Groups Facilitating Committee. She is the first minor, ever, to be elected into this position. As the youngest member of Middle East Solar, she has been a speaker at its forums as a voice of her youth constituency & part of "WOMEN IN SOLAR" group, which seeks to encourage women in the solar industry. She works with UNICEF and UNHCR. For her inspiring work, she is the recipient of the 2014 Non Resident Indian of the Year award, the 2014 GESS Award as Ambassador for the Environment and the 2015 Diana Award for Active Campaigner. She was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize in 2016 for her work.

## Ms. Hunter Lovins



Ms. L. Hunter Lovins serves as Senior Advisor of CO2IMPACT. Ms. Lovins is the President and Founder of the Natural Capitalism Solutions. Additionally, she serves as an Advisor to the Energy Minister of the Government of Afghanistan, and an Advisor of both EOS Climate, Inc. and KWhOURS, Inc. She has consulted for scores of industries and governments worldwide including the International Finance Corporation, Royal Dutch Shell, Interface, Clif Bar and Wal-Mart. Her areas of expertise include Natural Capitalism, sustainable development, globalization, energy and resource policy, economic development, climate change, land management, and fire rescue and emergency medicine. She serves as Member of Environmental Advisory Board of Green Mountain Energy Company. She is associated with Rocky Mountain Institute and Natural Capitalism Inc. She co-founded the Rocky Mountain Institute, which she led for 20 years. She is a founding Professor of Business at Presidio School of Management and the Bard College MBA in Sustainability. Recipient of such honors as the 2008, Sustainability Pioneer Award, Right Livelihood Award, Lindbergh Award and Leadership in Business, she was named Time Magazine 2000 Hero of the Planet. Called by Newsweek, "the green business icon," she has co-authored 15 books and hundreds of papers, including the Economic Case for Climate Protection, the Climate Protection Manual for Cities, and Solutions at the Speed of Business, a web-based tool that helps small businesses cut their emissions profitably. Her latest book *A Finer Future* is coming out in October."



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## Ms. Hawa Diallo



Hawa Diallo currently serves as the Head of the NGO Relations Unit, in the NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section in the Department of Public Information, where she coordinates UN and NGO partnership activities. She has extensive United Nations experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1986 in the Department of Public Information and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and as a Partners and Youth Officer.

## I: Women and Girls Mobilizing

## Ms. Lopa Banerjee



Lopa Banerjee is the Chief of the Civil Society Section at UN Women. She is based in New York and leads UN Women's work on strengthening civil society contribution, participation and influence in the global, intergovernmental policy discussion and decision processes. A gender and human rights thematic expert with substantive experience in social policy and governance issues across Asia and Africa, Lopa has worked for over 3 decades in international development, policy advocacy, communication and partnership building, across the UN and in the private sector. Lopa Banerjee has had more than a decade-long career with the United Nations. Prior

to the UN she worked with the private sector as well as with civil society, in India. Before joining UN Women, Lopa worked with UNDP and OHCHR in South Africa and UNICEF in Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Bangladesh and New York. She also led a multi stakeholder campaign with civil society, government and the private sector, on the MDGs during the Soccer World Cup in 2010. Lopa's areas of specialization include policy analysis and advocacy, partnership development and engagement, and Human Rights Based Programming and training.

## Mr. Djibril Diallo



With over 35 years' experience in international relations and diplomacy, Djibril Diallo has spearheaded numerous global initiatives to accelerate the achievement of United Nations objectives. Currently, as President and CEO of African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN), an internationally operating NGO, Dr. Diallo leads, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations-Deputy Secretary General, the United Nations Senior Africans Group, and various United Nations system entities, ARDN's "Pathway to Solutions" initiative, a special project for the United Nations to popularize the Sustainable Development Goals. Before this appointment, he was Regional Director for West and Central Africa at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), where he advanced UNAIDS' vision of getting to zero. His United Nations appointments have also included Director of the United Nations Office of Sports for Development and Peace, Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly, Director of Communications at the United Nations Development Programme, and Special Advisor to the Executive Director and Deputy-Director of Public Affairs at the United

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Nations Children's Fund. Dr. Diallo began his international civil service career with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1980. He initiated the first United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit in October 2006, which brought together youth leaders from nearly 192 countries, giving due regard to gender parity. He currently also serves as coordinator of the United Nations Senior Africans Group. A citizen of Senegal, Dr. Diallo earned a PhD in linguistics and communication from the University of London.

## Ms. Katja Iversen



Katja Iversen is the President/CEO of Women Deliver – a leading global advocate for investment in gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women, with a specific focus on maternal, sexual and reproductive health and rights. Iversen, an internationally recognized expert on development, advocacy and communications, has more than 25 years of experience working in NGOs, corporates and United Nation agencies. Previously, she held the position as Chief of Strategic Communication and Public Advocacy with UNICEF, a position she came to after almost six years of leading the team responsible for advocacy and communication on reproductive health with UNFPA. She holds a master's degree in communications, bachelor's degree in public administration and certificates in management, conflict resolution, and international development. Iversen has worked in global development for more than 20 years and has an extensive network within the UN, development communities, and global media. She has counseled and trained multiple Fortune 500 executives on cross cultural management and cross-cultural communication. She is a member of

Prime Minister Trudeau's G7 Gender Equality Council, the Unilever Sustainability Advisory Council, the MIT Women & Technology Solve Leadership Group, and an International Gender Champion. Iversen was recently named in the top 10 of Apolitical's Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy.

## Ms. Haydee Rodriguez

Working as a farmer since her childhood, Haydee Rodriguez grew up with the knowledge that women's roles are undervalued and disadvantaged, and experienced firsthand how devastating natural disasters can be for the livelihoods of local communities. Since then, Haydee has dedicated her life to



empowering women through raising awareness of women's rights and bringing gender issues to the attention of authorities, with the goal of achieving gender-equal rights. She is part of the Board of Directors for the Cooperatives of Women Producers "Las Brumas" in Jinotega-Nicaragua; the organization is a member of the global network of the Huairou Commission and GROOTS International. In recent years, her work has focused on disaster risk reduction, making land and housing accessible for women, strengthening women's leadership, sustainable and smart agriculture, environmental protection through Community Resilience, and the implementation of strategic alliances with local governments through the Community Practitioners Platform. Haydee has been a strong leader in the sustainable agriculture movement, particularly in soil conservation work. Her vast experience in leading Last Brumas has resulted in it being the only female-led cooperative to be invited to the National Agricultural Forum hosted by the



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Honduran government to share sustainable agricultural practices.

## Ms. Njoki Njehu



Ms. Njehu is a committed grassroots organizer, mobilizer and activist. Her first activism and advocacy lessons were from her mother, Lilian Njehu, a community and church-based activist who continues to inspire her to fight for justice. A Pan-Africanist, feminist, and popular educator, Ms. Njehu's expertise includes women's land rights, gender justice, community rights, and environmental justice. She is a founder & Executive Director of Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center, an independent non-ethnic, non-partisan Nairobi-based network. Previously she was Director of the 50 Years Is Enough: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice and before that worked for Greenpeace International. She has testified three (3) times before the U.S. Congress, on debt, HIV/AIDS and other crises facing Africa. Ms. Njehu is the coordinator of the Pan-African Fight Inequality Alliance, a Board member of the Urgent Action Fund (UAF) Africa, and a member of the Green Belt Movement. She is a former Board member of Jobs with Justice (U.S.) and of the National Government Constituency Development Fund Committee (NG-CDFC), Kabete Constituency. Ms. Njehu has been profiled and quoted in print and broadcast media, including: *Time Magazine*, *The Daily Nation* (Kenya), *The Financial Times* (U.K), *The New York Times*, *The Sankei Shimbun* (Japan), *The Washington Post*, *Ode Magazine* (Netherlands), and on KBC TV (Kenya).

## Ms. Emele Duituturaga

Emele Duituturaga, a Fijian national, is the Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), a position she has held since 2009. She is also the UNDP/NGO Pacific Regional Coordinator. PIANGO is the Pacific regional umbrella body for national umbrella



NGOs with a presence in 24 Pacific Island countries and territories. Established in 1991, PIANGO gives voice to the concerns of Pacific CSOs and coordinates collective action. Emele is a strong advocate for strengthening civil society engagement and collaborative partnerships. She has been instrumental in PIANGO's positioning as a regional and global civil society development actor and has spoken at numerous high-level meetings raising the profile of the Pacific's concerns such as climate change. Emele is also a Gender and CSO expert, and Public Policy analyst and keen political observer with experiences in the public, private and civil society sectors. Prior to joining PIANGO Emele was a Research Associate at Fiji's University of the South Pacific and Fiji Government's CEO for the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare, Poverty Alleviation and Housing from. She has worked in the development sector for over 2 decades. She has a Bachelor in Social Work, a Postgraduate Diploma in Corporate Management and a Masters in Business Administration.

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## II: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70

### **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**



Craig Mokhiber is Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A lawyer and specialist in international human rights law, policy and methodology, he has served the UN since January of 1992. As Chief of the Human Rights and Development Team in the 1990s, Mokhiber led the development of OHCHR's original work on human rights-based approaches to development and human rights-sensitive definitions of poverty. He has also served as the UN's Senior Human Rights Advisor in both Palestine, and in Afghanistan, led the team of human rights specialists attached to the High Level Mission on Darfur, headed the Rule of Law and Democracy Unit, and served as Chief of the Economic and Social Issues Section, and Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch at OHCHR Headquarters. His fieldwork includes dozens of human rights missions in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Eastern Europe. He was for five years the Chairman of the UN Task Force for Action Two (a global initiative to advance national human rights protection systems), and later Chaired the UN Democracy Fund consultative group, the UN Working Group on Leadership, and the HLCP Consultative group on Inequalities. Craig Mokhiber has lectured and taught human rights, has authored several publications on human rights themes, and has served on the Secretariats of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), the Commission on Human Rights (1995), the Working Group on the Right to Development (2001), and the World Summit (2005). He represented OHCHR in the LDC-IV Conference in Istanbul in 2011, in the UN working group on the human rights of older

persons in 2011 and 2012, in the Rio+20 negotiations in 2012, in the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, and in the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016.

### **Ms. Olajobi Makinwa**

Olajobi Makinwa is UN Global Compact's Chief, Intergovernmental Relations & Africa where she leads high-level interactions with governments as well as strengthening of relations and mobilizing political support to advance the work of the UN Global Compact. She also coordinates relations with regional organizations. Olajobi has been instrumental to the evolution and growth of the UN Global Compact's work on the 10th principle on transparency and anti-corruption. She led the development of a range of strategic projects on the 10th principle. One of these being the UN Global Compact Siemens Initiative project (SIP) on Collective Action in the fight against corruption. Olajobi was also responsible for coordinating the participation of civil society and their engagement in the UN Global Compact to deepen and widen their engagement. Prior to joining the UN Global Compact, Olajobi was the Executive Director of Amnesty International South Africa. Previously, she served as a Legal Officer with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Kenya, and with UNEP Regional Office for Europe in Switzerland. Olajobi has consulted for UN Agencies and the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa and as a law teacher in Nigeria. Olajobi is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She is a member of the International Bar Association, American Society of International Law, among others. She is an alumnus of the School of Business Leadership, University of South Africa.



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## Mr. Roberto Borrero (Tiano)



Roberto “Mukaro” Borrero is a Programs and Communications Coordinator for the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), whose primary portfolio includes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Development Agenda along with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. On behalf of the IITC, Borrero serves as a co-convener for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He is a member of the Taíno Tribal Nation, an Indigenous Peoples whose traditional homelands extend through the Greater Antilles and the Southern tip of Florida in the U.S.. In 2012, he was traditionally sanctioned as a kasike (chief) of the Guainia Taíno tribal community. Borrero has an educational background in Communications and Cultural Studies and was presented an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Humanities from Kayiwa International University, Kampala, Uganda in 2013.

## Ms. Antje Kraft



Antje Kraft is a Justice and Human Rights Policy Specialist in the Rule of Law, Justice Security and Human Rights Team with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in NY. Prior to this position, she worked as the Justice and Human Rights Specialist for the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, focusing on a wide range of issues and processes related to access to justice and the promotion and protection of human rights. Prior to that, she was a Gender and Governance Specialist with UN Women in Guinea Bissau and at UNDP in Morocco, focusing on

women’s human rights and access to justice, as well as with NGOs in a shelter for survivors of SGBV and engaging with women’s organizations in Palestine and Mozambique. She holds an M.A. in International Relations from Sciences Po Grenoble and a B.S. in Politics and Psychology from London Metropolitan University.

## III: A Repositioned UN Development System

### Ms. Susan Modaress



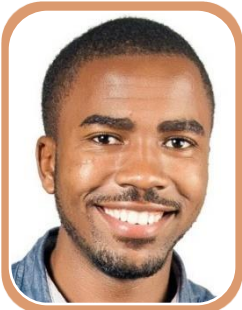
Susan Modaress is a New York-based broadcast and print journalist. She’s covered some of the world’s contemporary hotspots, including Egypt, Lebanon, Haiti, Iran, and Iraq. She’s currently mostly covers stories in the US; from Detroit to Louisiana, California to Wisconsin. Susan landed Newsweek ME’s cover story on the 2016 US elections. Born in San Francisco, to Persian parents & having lived on both sides of the world in virtually opposing cultures, she carries a unique understanding of politics and humanity. This has allowed her to interview and build lasting relationships with many of the world’s leading politicians and intellectuals, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, EU Chief Federica Mogherini, US National Security Advisors Zbigniew Brezezinski and Gary Sick, and Dr. Cornell West, among others. Susan works closely with Amnesty International & recently interviewed the artists taking part in a human rights benefit concert at Barclays Center, for an exclusive on HBO. There she sat down with Bob Geldof, Roger Waters, Debbie Harry, Lauryn Hill, and others. Susan is the only female photojournalist to have covered the the Arba’een Religious Pilgrimage (the world’s largest public gathering) in Iraq and shadowed Iraqi security



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forces to report on the challenges they faced in keeping the country safe, once US & allied troops leave. Her coverage of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill made headlines, as she was the first international journalists to obtain access inside BP headquarters in Louisiana. Her documentary about hunger and the new working poor in NJ was selected by the NY & NJ Special Councils at Hofstra & Rutgers Universities to be part of the 2015 high school curriculum in both states. Susan is a Diplomatic Correspondent at the United Nations. She's a member of the UN Correspondents Association, The Foreign Press Association of the US & New York Women in Film & Television.

## Mr. Humphrey Nabimanya



Humphrey Nabimanya is the Founder and Team Leader of Reach A Hand Uganda (RAHU). He is a youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocate, leader and change agent. By founding RAHU a youth led organization focused on youth empowerment programs with an emphasis on livelihood and skills development, Behavior Change Communication (BCC), SRHR and, HIV/AIDS awareness, He has created a movement of young advocates with over 25 core team members and 500 volunteers (growing per year) under the Peer Educators Academy which has been expanded to include young people from all 5 major regions in Uganda as well as young people with disabilities. Humphrey's mission is to support his peers take control of their lives and present themselves in ways that inspires, impresses and spurs confidence in themselves under a platform where they have full opportunities to take part in the process of breaking barriers hindering them from making informed choices in life regarding their SRHR. He has spoken at global health festivals for

example the 2018 Aspen Ideas Festival, the largest public gathering place for leaders from around the globe and across many disciplines to engage in deep and inquisitive discussion of the ideas and issues that both shape our lives and challenge our times. He was also mentioned as a lead example by Reina Buijs, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Netherlands at the closing plenary of the 2018 World AIDS Conference that was attended by over 6000 participants from across the world.

## Mr. Robert Piper

Robert Piper is Head of the Transition Team responsible for the Repositioning of the UN Development System, in the Executive Office of the Secretary General. He has over 28 years of humanitarian and development experience with the United Nations, primarily in the field leading efforts in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and disaster risk reduction in a number of complex situations across four continents.



## Mr. Mandeep Tiwana

Mandeep Tiwana is the chief programmes officer at CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance. He specializes in legislation relating to the core civil society freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Since joining CIVICUS in 2008, Mandeep has engaged in efforts to advance civil society participation in decision making and to protect civil society freedoms globally. He has written extensively on the intersection between civil society, development and international affairs in this



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capacity. Previously, Mandeep advised the New Delhi Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He has also worked with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and has published a compilation of landmark Indian Supreme Court decisions and National Human Rights Commission guidelines on human rights and policing and has co-authored modules on human rights for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a citizen's handbook explaining the mandate and practical functioning of human rights commissions in India. Mandeep has also drafted two annual reports for the Punjab State Human Rights Commission and has worked on projects related to good governance and women's empowerment in India.

## Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal



Rosemary Kalapurakal is currently the Lead Advisor, SDGs and Acting Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP. Rosemary was previously the Director a.i. of the Sustainable Development Cluster (Inclusive Growth) of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and is the Lead Advisor on 2030 Agenda. Previously, she was the Deputy Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme. In addition, Rosemary has extensive experience of UNDP's work in different regions, serving as Chief of the Policy and Operations Support Unit of the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS at UNDP and as Programme Advisor in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, covering South East Asian and Pacific countries. She was also the head of the UNDP Lao PDR Governance team as Assistant Resident Representative. Rosemary joined UNDP in 2001 through the Leadership Development Programme. Rosemary has significant expertise in

gender and social inclusion issues, through her tenures as Programme Specialist at UNIFEM and as Information and Communications Manager for UNDP's Global Gender Programme; her work at the International Women's Tribune Centre, an international NGO aimed at strengthening women's information networks world-wide (2003 – 2007); and as an advocate on disability issues. Rosemary holds a doctorate in Business (Marketing) and a Master's degree in Economics from the Ohio State University (USA), and completed a post-doctoral fellowship from the London Business School (UK).

## IV: Youth, Today's Leaders

### Mr. Dejan Bojanic

Dejan Bojanic is one of Forbes magazine's 30 most influential Europeans in policy development and advocacy under the age of 30, for "*championing Europeans' rights and their political movements*". Dejan is the Secretary General of the children and youth organization of Save the Children in Sweden and Vice President of the European Youth Forum, world's largest platform of youth organizations, where he leads institutional relations with the United Nations. Between 2012 and 2016 Dejan was in the youth advocacy group for UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Global Education First Initiative. He currently sits as an expert in the European Commission's Multi-stakeholder Platform on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the European Union.



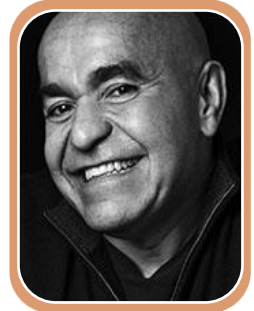
# Speaker Biographies

## Mr. Prince Gideon Olanrewaju



At 25, Gideon Olanrewaju is the Founder and Chief Executive Director of Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi), a non-profit that has delivered impact for over 6000 disadvantaged children from low-income families in rural communities in Nigeria, by ensuring access to quality education through resource mobilization, grassroots organizing and economic empowerment. As a Development Practitioner focused on Quality Education, Gideon has over 5 years' experience in educational development, having led and worked with diverse teams on research, design and implementation of high-impact programmatic interventions in Nigeria, South Africa and the United Kingdom. As a Youth Activist, his online and offline advocacy efforts are centered around key themes of educational development such as Education Finance, Safe Schools and ECD and has spoken, participated and represented Nigeria as in several High-level consultations such as the World Education Forum Incheon, 66th UN/DPI NGO Conference Gyeongju, 14th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Nairobi, 7th UNESCO NGO Forum Riyadh, World Youth Forum Sharm El Sheikh and 8th UNESCO NGO Forum Paris. Through his work with the International Youth Coalition for Education, he is galvanizing efforts with passionate youth leaders and youth organizations across the world to enhance and increase active global youth engagement in local and high-level education policy-making processes. Gideon is a UNESCO ESD Young Leader in Africa, a Teaching Fellow/Certified Entrepreneurial Leadership Educator at the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa and A World at School Global Youth Ambassador with TheirWorld.

## Mr. Kamran Elahian



Mr. Kamran Elahian serves as the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board at Global Catalyst Partners. He further serves as Global Innovation Advisor at 500 Startups since January 2016. He was the Co-Founder of Centillium Communications, Inc. Mr. Elahian co-founded Global Catalyst Partners in 1999. He has co-founded more than ten high-tech companies and two nonprofit organizations. He also founded and co-founded, respectively, Schools Online (1996) and the Global Catalyst Foundation (2000). He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Actelis Networks, Greenfield Networks, Entopia and Actelis Networks. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Centillium Communications, Inc. Mr. Elahian serves as the Chairman Emeritus of Relief International-Schools Online. He serves as a Director for Beceem Communications Inc, Ikoa, SoundHound Inc., and Yoomba. Mr. Elahian also co-chaired UNDESA-GAID. In December 2006, he was presented The Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the development, innovation, growth and long-term opportunities of the fabless semiconductor industry. He served as Chairman of OmniTrust Security Systems Inc.

## Ms. Alexandria Bramel

Alexandria Bramel is Chief of Software Development at JEE Fodds. JEE Foods is a Non-Profit Organization which has partnered with local grocers and companies like Kroger to collect food that would otherwise be wasted. JEE Foods reprocess and redistribute these donations in the form of value added meals such as MRE's. JEE Foods also provide employees and volunteers with training





# Speaker Biographies

and certification. These unique aspects of JEE Foods help us reach our goal of Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Starving Out Hunger. Alexandria Bramel is also a High School student at Butler Tech Ross High School.

## Ms. Toya Montoya



María Victoria Montoya -known as Toya Montoya- is a Colombian model and philanthropist who, for the past 10 years, has been working with different social projects. Her main interest is the welfare of Colombian children and youth, especially those of her hometown Santa Marta. In 2011, La Toya created, with a group of friends, the *Sonrisas Con Futuro* Foundation. This NGO works with children displaced by natural disasters and victims of the Colombian armed conflict. As the Director, she's created strategic alliances with the private sector, civil society members, and the local government, to promote and secure better educational environments and feeding programs for the children in these vulnerable communities. Currently the foundation has three projects in Santa Marta, including one at the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta with Arhuaco indigenous communities. These projects are benefiting more than 300 children and adolescents. Toya Montoya has a Marketing Degree from the Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Bogotá, Colombia, and has a wide recognition within Latin America as a model and influencer.

## Ms. Nancy A. Henkin

Nancy Z. Henkin is the founder and former Executive Director of the Intergenerational Center at Temple University. She is currently serving as a Senior Fellow at Generations United and a national consultant in intergenerational practice, policy and research. Dr. Henkin received her B.S. from Simmons College and her Ph.D.



from Temple University. A leading authority in the areas of intergenerational programming, intergenerational community building, and lifelong civic engagement, she has presented at numerous national conferences including the American Society on Aging, Grantmakers in Aging, Generations United, Grantmakers in Children, Youth, and Families, the Rosalyn Carter Institute, National Conference on Volunteering and Service, Southeast Council on Foundations, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programs. She has also given presentations in Japan, China, Finland, Singapore, and Europe. Dr. Henkin serves on the editorial board of the International Journal on Intergenerational Relations and is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Aging in Philadelphia. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jack Ossofsky Award from the National Council on the Aging (2005), the Maggie Kuhn Award from the Gray Panthers (1988) and the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (2003), the Professional in Human Relations Award from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (2003), the Marjorie Cantor Leadership Award from Elders Share the Arts (2013), and the Intergenerational Champion Award from Generations United (2015). In 2006, she was elected into the Ashoka Fellowship, a global community of social entrepreneurs, for her efforts to build Communities for All Ages.

# Speaker Biographies

## V: Shared Planet, Shared Prosperity

### **Mr. Maher Nasser**



Maher Nasser has over 30 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in various capacities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna and New York. In the last six years, Mr. Nasser was appointed three times as Acting Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information (April to August 2012, August 2014 to February 2015, and most recently as Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications from 1 April to 31 August 2017). Mr. Nasser took up his current position as Director of DPI's Outreach Division in February 2011. He first joined DPI in January 2006 as Director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo. Before joining DPI, Mr. Nasser worked in various positions with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza, Jerusalem, Vienna, Amman and New York. From 1992 to 1994, he worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Nasser worked with two Jerusalem-based NGOs focusing on development and human rights. Mr. Nasser also attended the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid in October 1991 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations in Washington DC as the personal assistant to Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Head of the Palestinian Negotiating Team. Maher Nasser holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bir Zeit University in Palestine and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Warwick in the UK. He is married with three children. An occasional runner, he completed the New York City Marathon in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

### **Mr. Isaac Reshad**



Isaac Reshad is a versatile and tactical entrepreneur with over 20 years of international venture experience. Mr. Reshad began his career as a small business consultant, specializing in international sourcing, production and import/export operations. His projects concentrated in emerging markets and countries with United States free trade opportunities. These projects focused on the infrastructure, real estate, and textile industries. Currently, Mr. Reshad is the co-founder and managing director of Global Access Partner LLC (GAP), which helps companies identify and monetize global business opportunities. GAP integrates the private sector, government agencies, and key stakeholders to secure and manage deals. The company specializes in Global Business Development, Project Acquisition and Management, Infrastructure/PPP, Government Relations, Impact Investing, and Strategic and Capital Raise Consulting. Prior to GAP, Mr. Reshad co-founded and managed Sybaris Consulting Group LLC (Sybaris), which strategizes with clients to identify opportunities for investment in post-conflict emerging markets and frontier markets. Mr. Reshad deployed his political and financial expertise to secure funding through his expansive network of equity, grant, loan, and risk insurance providers. Sybaris focused geographically in Central and Southern Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

# Speaker Biographies

## Mr. Seongbae Lim



Seongbae Lim, Ph.D., is professor and chair of the Department of Finance Quantitative Management at St. Mary's University. He specializes in IT driven innovation strategy, virtual entrepreneurship, and blockchain technology. His prior teaching experience includes the University of Nebraska and State University of New York. He recently published books titled 'Meta Innovation,' 'Living Innovation,' and 'Blockchain for Smart Governance.' His recent works appear in Service Industries Journal, International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal, and Service Business. He has done many special lectures and keynote speeches about new innovation strategies and the application of blockchain technology for world-renowned institutes such as University of California at Berkeley, Peking University, Complutense University of Madrid, Seoul National University, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. Lim has been selected for Marquis Who's Who in America along with Who's Who in the World since 2005. In addition, as a columnist, Lim contributes regularly about spiritual capital to Guideposts. Lim is active in the Association of Information Systems, Decision Science Institute and the Pan Pacific Business Association. He has also served as an editorial board member for Service Business and Journal of Convergence Information Technology. He is a director of operations for the Pan Pacific Business Association, visiting research fellow for Asian Community Center, member of National Unification Advisory Council of Korea, and secretary general for Global Forum for Building School Bullying Prevention Systems.

## Ms. Devopriya Dutta

Born on 9 April 1987 Devopriya did her schooling in Notre Dame Academy in Patna. She graduated in Sociology from Patna Women's College and went to do her Masters in Sociology from Patna University. Being member of the College Cabinet in Patna Women's College, it was natural for Devopriya to join a local Ngo, Tarumitra, Students' F to take up the issues in Education for the next couple of years. Organic Farming done by students fascinated her and naturally, she moved over to work in Tarumitra which has ECOSOC status with the United Nations from 2005. Struggling to get the Environment agenda on the topics for discussions in school, Devopriya joined a group of youngsters from Honduras, Central America who came of their Internship from the University of Zamorano, Devopriya trained herself on the ropes to take the campaign ahead. Devopriya brought the Organic Farming issues into discussions when she got the attention of the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Prem Kumar to take up the task of promoting it across the State of Bihar. When it was harvesting times, she got Dr. Prem Kumar to do the unthinkable, the Minister joined the students to harvest rice with his bare hands and sickles. Devopriya joined Tarumitra as the Co-coordinator of schools as well as the Campaign Manager. She lives at the Tarumitra Bio-reserve community and she accepts no remuneration or payments. It has been total commitment to the students' issues related to ecology. Today Devopriya is the prime mover for kitchen gardening, Organic farming and vertical and terrace farming.



# Speaker Biographies

## **Mx. Sean Estelle**



Sean has been living in Chicago for 4 years. They hail originally from San Diego, where they went to school at UC San Diego and graduated in 2013 with a B.A. in Theatre. Since being politicized through the Occupy Movement in 2011, Sean has been building state, regional, and national organizational infrastructure for student and youth power with the California Student Union, National Students For Justice in Palestine, various Student Power Networks, and now with Power Shift Network. After spending time as the National Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaigner and National Network Organizer, Sean is now continuing to build power through experimentation with network structures, organizer support & management, and long-term strategy for decentralized power-building in service of the 80+ member organizations within PSN. Sean also is a dues paying member of Democratic Socialists of America, the fastest-growing organization of socialists in the United States; and a volunteer member of Rising Tide Chicago, which uses direct action to address capitalism, racism, and other root causes of the climate crisis. When not plotting for the revolution with young people around the country, Sean is participating and building queer community on dance floors and performance stages. They can be found on Twitter and Instagram @chitrans\_plant.

## **VI: Toward UN75: Communicating the Case for Multilateralism**

### **Jeffrey Brez**



In his capacity as Chief of the NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section in the Department of Public Information, Jeffrey oversees the relations with non-governmental organizations, the Messengers of Peace Programme, the Creative Community Outreach Initiative and Special Events. His work in international humanitarian aid and development assistance has spanned more than a decade and covered a range of issues including children's and women's rights, refugee assistance, child soldiers, health, education, sustainable agriculture and food security, environmental sustainability, anticorruption and climate change. His experience includes all aspects of strategic communications and campaign planning, social media, video and photography, development of knowledge products and events as well as global, multi-stakeholder policy consultation processes and relations with civil society. He has worked for four United Nations entities (IFAD, OCHA, UNICEF, and UNDP) and the World Bank Group, and been posted in Albania and Côte d'Ivoire. Previously, he spent a decade working in television production, both in front of and behind the camera, on live and taped events, including numerous satellite broadcasts. He has lived on four continents and speaks English, French, Italian and Japanese fluently. He holds a Master of International Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where he studied international economics and development.

# Speaker Biographies

## H.E. Mr. Chull-joo Park



Ambassador Chull-joo Park assumed his current position as Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations on November 16, 2017. During his over 26-year diplomatic career, he has served with distinction in various leadership positions in the Korean Foreign Ministry. These include, among others, as Director General for International Legal Affairs and Deputy Director General for International Legal Affairs in Seoul (2014-2017), Minister-Counsellor and Consul General at the Korean Embassy in the Netherlands (2012-2014), Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN (2009-2012), Director for International Legal Affairs in 2008, and Director for Personnel Management in 2007. During this time he also held important multilateral roles, including as Vice-Chair for the Sixth Committee of the 65th UN General Assembly and Vice-Chair for the 51st Session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in 2011. Ambassador Park is currently serving as Vice President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS.

leadership in conducting and connecting research and practice to advance clear and vivid science and medical communication. As a communication researcher, her work draws inspiration from the idea that we can make better, more informed decisions about how we shape our collective future. She is passionate about supporting scientists to communicate their work in more direct and engaging ways. Her work focuses on how we can advance meaningful, productive interactions with communities, stakeholders and decision-makers by strengthening linkages between knowledge and action. Much of Laura's research focuses on environmental and sustainability communication. Her work seeks to understand how we can support effective stakeholder engagement and build strong interdisciplinary teams and communicate our science more effectively and persuasively. Laura's work has appeared in a range of journals such as *Science Communication*, *Ecology & Society*, *Environmental Communication*, *Sustainability Science*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, and *Food & Foodways*. *Feasting Our Eyes. Food Films, and Cultural Identity in the United States* (2016), her co-authored book with Fabio Parasecoli, was published by Columbia University Press.

## Ms. Laura Lindenfeld



Dr. Laura Lindenfeld is Director of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science and Professor in the School of Journalism at Stony Brook University. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural studies from the University of California, Davis. As the Alda Center Director, she oversees a dynamic organization that has trained over 12,000 scientists worldwide and introduced over 40,000 to the Alda Method®. The Center provides international

## Mr. William Pace

Mr. Pace is the Executive Director of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy. He has served as the Convenor of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court since its founding in 1995 and is a co-founder and steering committee member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect. He has been engaged in international justice, rule of law, environmental



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law, and human rights for the past 30 years. He previously served as the Secretary-General of the Hague Appeal for Peace, the Director of the Center for the Development of International Law, among other positions. He is the President of the Board of the Center for United Nations Reform Education. He is the recipient of the William J. Butler Human Rights Medal from the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights. Mr. Pace has authored numerous articles and reports on international justice, international affairs and UN issues, multilateral treaty processes, and civil society participation in international decision-making.

## **H.E. Mr. Henry Mac Donald**



Ambassador Mac Donald was born in Suriname and received his legal education at the University of Suriname and the American University, Washington College of Law. He acquired Post-Doctoral honors from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and several Universities in Europe. Dr. Henry Mac Donald received an Honorary Degree in Doctorate for Philosophy in Humanities and the Golden Rule International Award for his international work on gender equality and women's empowerment at the United Nations. He served at the United Nations for over 10 years as the Permanent Representative of Suriname. He was a Vice President of the 65th General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Committee (Third Committee) in 2012. Among many of his legacies, he was the HEforSHE Spokesperson and spoke in support of gender equality all over the world. As a feminist he was also the driving force behind the Barbershop Conferences at the United Nations in 2015 and 2017. These gatherings were organized by Suriname and Iceland to invite Men

in joining Women in their struggle, to STOP Violence against Women and Girls, all over the world. In October 2017, Dr. Mac Donald was named President of the World Development Foundation in order to synchronize his passion, theoretical, as well practical knowledge about the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the efforts of the NGO Community active at the United Nations.

## **Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe**

Natalie Samarasinghe is Executive Director of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK), where she has worked since 2006. She is the first woman to hold this role. In this capacity, Natalie works closely with UNA-UK's Board of Trustees on the Association's strategy and policy positioning. She provides analysis on



international relations and institutions, and leads the UNA-UK team in its campaigning, advocacy, outreach, fundraising and education activities. She speaks and writes regularly on UN issues, and has overall responsibility for UNA-UK's profile and impact. Natalie has authored or edited a number of publications for UNA-UK and external outlets. She serves as editor-at-large for the Association's flagship magazine, and as an editor for WITAN Media, producing publications on international development, climate change and on peace and security. In 2018, she contributed a chapter on human rights norms and machinery to the Oxford Handbook on the United Nations. 2015, she completed an eight-volume compendium of articles on the United Nations for SAGE Publications, co-edited with Sam Daws. She has also partnered with the UK National Commission for UNESCO on UN teaching materials. Prior to joining UNA-UK, Natalie worked in various roles in the public, private and education sectors,





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including for the University of Oxford. She is a trustee of the Association for Citizenship Teaching, a member of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of UNAs, a member of the Steering Committee for the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect and an advisor to the Board of the Sri Lanka Campaign. In 2013, she co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign, which seeks a fair, open and inclusive process to select the UN Secretary-General. In 2018, her submission was one of three to be awarded the Global Challenges Foundation 'New Shape Prize' to reshape global governance. She has degrees in human rights and modern history from the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics.

**Thursday, 23 August 2018**

## Day 2 Open Forum

### **OHCHR**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity. They have a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights. OHCHR's thematic priorities are strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law; integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere; widening the democratic space; and early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity. They also support the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies established to monitor State Parties' compliance with the core international human rights treaties and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. They promote the right to development, coordinate United Nations human rights education and public information activities, and strengthen human rights across the United Nations system. They work to ensure the enforcement of universally recognized human rights norms, including through promoting both the universal ratification and implementation of the major human rights treaties and respect for the rule of law.



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## **GSMA**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the GSMA are joining forces to harness the power of mobile technology to accelerate implementation of the universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. World leaders committed to achieve the 17 Goals by the year 2030. Under the partnership, UNDP and the GSMA will consider new business models and mechanisms to support the implementation of the SDGs, and engage governments and mobile industry leaders to increase the social impact that mobile technologies can deliver.

## **Yoshimoto Kogyo**

Yoshimoto Kogyo and the United Nations joined hands to protect the earth! Yoshimoto Kogyo, Japan's comedy-entertainment giant has joined forces with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Tokyo, to promote the importance of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Led by Yoshimoto Kogyo, the partnership also expanded to the Okinawa International Movie Festival in April 2017 to raise public awareness of the SDGs.

## **Unreasonable Goals**

On the 25th of September 2015, world leaders from 193 countries came together at the United Nations and adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (the "Global Goals") to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Unreasonable Goals is a partnership between governments, multinationals, and Unreasonable Group with the singular focus of accelerating our ability to achieve these noteworthy goals by leveraging market forces.

They are supporting the most effective entrepreneurial solutions in the world towards each of the Global Goals and wrapping them with the mentorship, financing, government relations, and global network needed to scale worldwide faster.

## **De Montfort University**

To help support refugees worldwide, the United Nations has asked DMU to take the lead in engaging universities across the globe in the #JoinTogether campaign. In January, DMU visited the UN headquarters in New York to formally begin this work, inviting international universities to a summit held in one of the UN's famous debating chambers, creating a global network of universities committed to finding ways to successfully integrate refugees into communities, while spreading messages of tolerance and understanding. Students and staff from the eleven partner universities were joined by senior representatives from the UN as well as the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the UN. Partner universities also signed a UN Together Action Charter to signal their intent to be part of the campaign.

# Speaker Biographies

## Closing Plenary

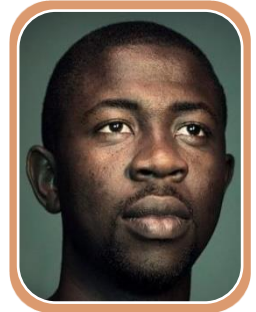
### **Ms. Kim Quarles**



Ms. Quarles, vice chair of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee, has been in the insurance business for 25+ years, having practiced law before joining the insurance industry as a Claims Attorney. Additionally, she is the Senior Vice President of the Global Insurance Brokerage, Willis. She focuses on Professional Liability exposures and the unique cyber risk insurance needs of Professionals. Ms. Quarles is a frequent speaker on law firm issues, professional liability, Cyber, TRIA and Global Warming. Most recently she presented at the World League on Freedom and Democracy on Democracy's impact on Sustainable Development; NOHLGA Conference, on Cyber issues, the World Jurist Association Cyber Conference in Barcelona, Spain, on Ethical Issues for Law Firms in a Cyber world, the Arbitration and Investment Summit for the Caribbean and the ACI Conference regarding Cyber Issues for Lawyers. Ms. Quarles other professional affiliations include: member of the American Bar Association, ABA Foundation Fellow, Member of the World Jurist Association [WJA], WJA Representative to the United Nations, Member of Claims and Litigation Management Alliance [CLM], Member of the Defense Research Institute [DRI], Vice Chair of DRI's Insurance Law Subcommittee on TRIA, Editor in Chief of the TRIA Resource Data Base, and Association of Professional Insurance Women [API].

### **Mr. Edafe Okporo**

Edafe Okporo is the youth co-chair of the Roundtables sub-committee, a youth representative for the Unitarian Universalist Association, United Nations Office, and the executive director of RDJ Refugee Shelter, which provides housing for homeless asylum seekers and refugees in New York City. He is a Nigerian LGBTQ refugee, opinion writer and advocate for human rights of LGBTQ, immigrants and minorities. Edafe is the author of "BED 26: A Memoir of an African Man's Asylum in United States," and he founded EO Consulting, which promotes LGBTQ and refugee access and integration into the job market. Edafe has over 7 years of experience working for leading nonprofits, and he serves as a board member of First Friends of New Jersey and New York and the International AIDS society (IAS).



### **Ms. Venus Ilagan**

Venus Ilagan is the Secretary General of Rehabilitation International, New York, since 2008. She is the first person with a disability, and the first from a developing country, to serve in this position. Ms. Ilagan also holds the distinction of being the first woman Chairperson of Disabled Peoples' International, a post she held from 2002-2007. She was earlier Project Director for a national rehabilitation programme for children with disabilities in the Philippines. Ms. Ilagan has actively participated in the elaboration of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and in various initiatives for the empowerment of leaders of





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persons with disabilities. She has extensive experience in disability rights promotion and advocacy, organizational development and management, and fund-raising, with particular interest in rehabilitation and empowerment of women, children and young adults with disabilities. Ilagan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the Centro Escolar University in Manila.

## Mr. Levi C. Bautista



Levi draws from more than 35 years of experience in denominational, ecumenical and international affairs as our representative at the United Nations. He studied history, politics and international affairs at the University of the Philippines. His doctoral studies in Christian social and political ethics were at Drew University.

Levi is a deacon in the Northern Philippines Annual Conference. Before moving to the US, Levi studied and worked in the Philippines at a time of political turmoil. That context shaped his outlook on how people might join God's action for justice and peace in the world. Activism against martial law while holding responsible national and international church and ecumenical positions shaped his thinking. That includes doing critical analysis alongside practical action. He asserts that the local and the global are simultaneous realities. Whether in the Philippines, in New York, or anywhere, churches and faith-based groups can live their faith, seeking justice and pursuing peace.

## Ms. Frances Zainoeddin

Ms. Frances Zainoeddin left Australia in 1970 to work at the United Nations, New York – initially in the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs – and ended her career, 31 years later, as Deputy Budget Director of the United Nations Programme Planning and Budget Division.



Upon retirement, Ms. Zainoeddin joined the NGO community to further promote the ideals of the United Nations, with specific interest in gender and ageing issues. Her knowledge of the United Nations system, policies and procedures, has been particularly useful to NGOs that participate in deliberations in intergovernmental meetings. Ms. Zainoeddin is currently an elected Member-at-Large of the NGO Committee on Ageing and is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She was a key participant in the establishment of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing in 2013, as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders involved, as civil society participants, in sustainable development issues and was actively engaged in the United Nations intergovernmental negotiations leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring inclusion of the concerns of older persons. She is the UN Focal Point in New York for the Stakeholder Group on Ageing. Ms. Zainoeddin is also actively involved in issues concerning the rights of older persons, particularly in the context of efforts being made by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations to elaborate a convention to protect and promote the rights of older persons.



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## **COBU**

Cobu, based in New York City, was created as a Live Rhythm Performing Arts Group in 2000. Yako Miyamoto, the founder of Cobu is a current member of the off Broadway-hit STOMP. Cobu combines elements of the Japanese traditional Taiko drumming with rhythmic Tap dancing. The extremely positive impact of the performance has received rave reviews from The New York Times and The Chicago Sun Times and has touched audiences through major festivals in Boston and Chicago. “Dance Like Drumming, Drum Like Dancing”, Cobu’s motto, is inspired by the combined sounds of New York and traditional Japanese culture. Their signature sound is created organically through acoustic instruments, rather than digital transcription. This juxtaposition of traditional modernity makes them one of the most unique and original mind-blowing groups of our time. In 2001, Cobu received “Choreography Award” by an organization Mann & Entertainment. Cobu is now the spotlight of entertainment accepted not only in United States but other countries such as Japan, Europe and all across Asia.