



## Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

### SPEAKER PROFILES

#### Welcome



#### MAHER NASSER

Director, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications,  
United Nations

[@mahernasser](#) [@MaherNasserUN](#) [Maher Nasser](#)

Maher Nasser has over 36 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) in Amman, Cairo, Dubai, Gaza, New York and Vienna.

Mr. Nasser is currently the Director of Outreach Division in the UN DGC where he leads the Department's engagement with academia, civil society, sports / football and the creative community, including the advertising industry. He was Acting USG for Global Communications in 2017 and Acting Head of the Department of Communications in 2012 and 2014/2015. In 2021/2022, he served as the Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020 in Dubai and was recently appointed as the Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Maher is a reluctant runner who ran the New York City Marathon in 2015, 2016 and 2017 raising seven university scholarships for Palestinian young women in Gaza, the West Bank and Syria. Maher is married and has three grown children.



#### JOHN WILMOTH

OIC, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic  
and Social Affairs, United Nations

[@UNDESA](#) [@UN DESA](#)

John Wilmoth is the Officer-in-Charge of the UN DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development and the Director of the Population Division. He joined the United Nations following a distinguished academic career, lastly as Professor at the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Wilmoth is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers examining various aspects of population dynamics and population issues, including the causes of the historical decline of human mortality, prospects for future trends in life expectancy, the impact of population ageing on public pension and healthcare systems, popular perceptions of population growth and its consequences, and methodologies for estimating and projecting demographic trends.

Mr. Wilmoth has also served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the World Bank from 2009 to 2012, leading the development of new global estimates of maternal mortality. He is a member of the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. He also serves on the editorial boards of some leading demographic journals including Demographic Research and the European Journal of Population.

## Group of Friends of Sport for Sustainable Development



### **ALYA AHMED BIN SAIF AL-THANI**

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

[@AmbAlyaAlThani](#)

Ambassador Alya Al-Thani, appointed as the first female Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in October 2013, is a globally recognized leader. She champions human rights, climate action, sustainable development, and women's empowerment, advocating for international cooperation.

Ambassador Al-Thani has co-facilitated pivotal processes, including consultations on the SDG Summit's political declaration (2023) and Security Council Reform. She authored significant General Assembly Resolutions, focusing on education in emergencies and World Autism Awareness Day, and played a key role in natural disaster response coordination. As Chair of various sessions and commissions and the State of Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, she has significantly contributed to human rights, socio-economic development, and population issues.

A board member of multiple organizations, her accolades include a nomination as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2013. Ambassador Al-Thani's writings and leadership in international forums underscore her commitment to addressing global challenges and multilateralism.



### **DAPHNÉ LE SON**

Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations

[@Monaco\\_ONU](#)

Daphné Le Son took office as Deputy Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations in July 2022.

After graduating with a Master's degree in international and European law as well as in comparative law, Ms. Le Son joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco in 2006.

She pursued her diplomatic career within the Permanent Delegation of the Principality of Monaco to UNESCO (2010-2012), during Monaco's mandate at the executive Board of the Organization. She was then posted to the Embassy of Monaco in France (2012-2015) where, in addition to covering bilateral activities, she was a delegate to l'Organisation internationale de La Francophonie. From 2015 to 2022 she assumed her duties within the Mission of Monaco to the European Union where she took part in the negotiation process for an association agreement between the Principality of Monaco and the European Union.

## Conversation: Prominent Women in Sport Driving Social Change



### MELISSA FLEMING

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations

[@melissarfleming](#) [@MelissaFleming](#) [Melissa Fleming](#)

Melissa Fleming is Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the United Nations, having taken up her post in September 2019. Ms. Fleming leads the UN's Department of Global Communications (DGC), which is responsible for informing global audiences about the state of the world and engaging them to build support for the Organization's work and goals. In this role, she oversees the UN's strategic communications operations, including its multilingual news and digital media services, public outreach programmes, and global campaigns. Under her leadership, the Department engages in far-reaching efforts to address misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech.

Previously, Ms. Fleming served 10 years at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as Head of Global Communications. Prior to that, she was the Spokesperson and Head of Media and Outreach at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She also headed the Press and Public Information team at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Ms. Fleming is a TED speaker, the author of the book, *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea*, and the host of the award-winning UN podcast, *Awake at Night*.

Ms. Fleming holds a Master of Science in Journalism from the College of Communication, Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in German Studies from Oberlin College.



### FATMA AL NUAIMI

Communications Executive Director, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy of the State of Qatar

[@falnuaimi](#) [@falnuaimi](#) [Fatma Al-Nuami](#)

Fatma Al Nuaimi is the Communications & Media Executive Director at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022™ organizing body. Al Nuaimi led communications and engagement with all local, regional and global stakeholders to keep them informed of and involved in Qatar's journey to deliver a historic tournament in 2022.

Al Nuaimi also held a Senior Legacy Manager position and was tasked with ensuring 2022 left a lasting positive impact on Qatar and the region. Al Nuaimi created the Challenge 22 initiative, a competition to inspire and challenge the region's brightest minds by funding innovative ideas that would contribute to the success of 2022. Al Nuaimi also played a key role in developing Josoor Institute, Qatar's educational centre of excellence for the sports and events industries.

Al Nuaimi is a member of the Global Shapers Community at the World Economic Forum. She is also a recipient of WEF's World Woman Hero Award, which was presented to her in recognition of her leadership and contribution to the success of the FIFA World Cup 2022™.

Al Nuaimi currently looks after communicating the tournament's economic, social, cultural and human legacy, and the lasting impact 2022 had on Qatar, the region and the world.



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## SASHA DIGIULIAN

Professional Rock Climber

Athlete Advocate for Protect Our Winters (POW)

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Sasha DiGiulian is one of the most accomplished female climbers in the world. She has been Female Overall World Champion in climbing, she currently holds a 10 year undefeated reign as pan-American Champion, and is a 3-time US National Champion. DiGiulian was the first North American Woman, and 3rd Woman in the World to climb the grade 5.14d, (9a). She has traveled to over 50 countries globally and accomplished over 30 First and First Female Ascents around the world, including Big Walls of 5.14 grades. These accomplishments have put her on the cover of 27 magazines, and she has featured on Oprah, Good Morning America, The Today Show, 60 Minutes Sports, Nightline, CNN, BBC, Vogue and TIME.

DiGiulian believes in the transformative power of sports on youth and female development. She has stood for equality in sport in terms of access, pay and the treatment of female athletes. As founder of Female Focused Adventures, a production company that centers around storytelling in the female adventure space, and empowering female content creators, DiGiulian strives to bolster the access and experiences of other women in the outdoors. She is also the founder and CEO of SEND BARS, a super food nutrition bar company recently launched with an all-female team.



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## STEPH HIRSCH

Community Engagement and Social Impact Manager, Seattle Reign FC

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[Steph Hirsch](#)

Steph Hirsch (They/Them) is Seattle Reign FC's first Community + Social Impact Manager, specializing in DEIJ and Systems-Approach Based Communications. Before Seattle Reign FC, Hirsch worked at C+C, a behavior-change communications agency based in Seattle, WA, and was also a private sports equity consultant for Crystal Palace's Player Aftercare Program. At C+C Hirsch built award-winning, lifesaving campaigns, like WA State Department of Health's "Vaccinate WA" COVID-19 campaign with Governor Jay Inslee's team, that brought needed resources to diverse WA communities. Hirsch also helped establish the City of Seattle's Transportation Access Programs (TAP), becoming the first city in the U.S. to address and build transit equity programs to decrease carbon emissions/single-car use, while providing affordable + accessible transit options for low-income and diverse populations.

Hirsch holds a Master of Communications: MCCN from the University of Washington and a Bachelor's in Journalism and American History from Temple University.



## BEA KIM

USA Ski and Snowboard Team

Athlete Advocate for Protect Our Winters (POW)

[@hellobeakim](#) [@hellobeakim](#) [@hellobeakim](#) [Bea kim](#)

Bea Kim is a professional snowboarder and Protect Our Winters Athlete Alliance member. Originally from Palos Verdes, California, the 17 year old is the youngest member of the US Pro Halfpipe Snowboard Team and is working towards a 2026 Olympic debut. Kim recently clinched her first ever World Cup podium in Laax, Switzerland, placing 2nd, and finished her first full year on the World Cup circuit in 3rd in the overall Crystal Globe standings. In her first X-Games appearance, Kim finished 4th, a highlight of her '23-'24 season. As the youngest competitor in this year's Winter X-Games, Kim competed against her childhood heroes and seasoned Olympians. Kim has been an active member of POW since 2021 and strives to use her platform as a professional athlete to inspire others.

## Case Studies: Successful Partnerships for Social Impact

### Players Coalition - Social Justice and Racial Equality Advocacy Organization



## ANQUAN BOLDIN

Former NFL American Football Player

Co-founder of the Players Coalition

[@anquanboldin](#) [@AnquanBoldin](#) [Anquan Boldin](#)

Philanthropist and humanitarian, Anquan Boldin is the Co-Founder of the Players Coalition, 2015 Walter Payton Man of the Year, and Super Bowl XLVII champion.

A 14-year veteran of the National Football League, Boldin is more than just a football player, he is a social advocate, philanthropist and humanitarian. Prior to his time with the Detroit Lions (2016-2017), he played with the San Francisco 49ers (2013-2015), Baltimore Ravens (2010-2012), and Arizona Cardinals (2003-2009). In 2015, he was given the NFL's most prestigious honor by being named the Walter Payton Man of the Year for his community service work. In the Fall of 2019, Boldin officially retired as a Baltimore Raven. In 2004, Boldin started The Anquan Boldin Foundation with a mission to expand the educational and life opportunities of underprivileged youth. The Foundation offers various programs throughout the year that benefit the youth and community.

His retirement from the NFL came from a decision to focus efforts on humanitarian work, fighting for social justice and racial equality. He serves as the Co-founder of Players Coalition. Players Coalition is an independent, player-driven non-profit organization that exists to end social injustices and racial inequality so future generations have the opportunity to thrive without barriers.



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## ANGELA LACHICA

CEO, LaChica Sports & Entertainment Group  
Managing Director, Players Coalition

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Angela LaChica is the Founder & CEO for LaChica Sports & Entertainment Group, an all female management team. A 25-year veteran of the sports industry, she has consulted to major sports properties, top professional athletes, and leading nonprofit organizations. Her expertise includes social justice advocacy, the development & execution of strategic national marketing campaigns, and media initiatives.

LaChica serves as the Managing Director for the Players Coalition, an organization of professional athletes working to impact social justice and racial equality. She achieved national recognition in 2016 as one of the lead negotiators behind the scenes for the NFL's \$89 million multi-year commitment to social justice initiatives. She works collaboratively with the NFL's top management on the strategic implementation of those initiatives. Most recently, LaChica led the Players Coalition to a 5 year, \$15M extension with the NFL.

LaChica teaches the Business of Sport at CSULB, and was recognized as one of the 2024 Leigh Steinberg Humanitarian Heroes. Additional honors include San Diego's Women Who Mean Business Award and California's Business Woman to Watch. In addition, LaChica serves on both the Rose Bowl Legacy Board and Rose Bowl Institute of Race & Sports.

### Concacaf and Generation Amazing: Capacity Building for Social Development Programming



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## JASON ROBERTS

Chief Football Development Officer, Concacaf  
Former Footballer

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 [@jasonrobertsfootball](#)  [Jason Roberts](#)

Jason Roberts was named Concacaf Director of Development on November 2017. He is focused on managing and strengthening the Confederation's core development programs including grassroots, coaching education, and professional football development initiatives.

He is a graduate of the UEFA MIP Executive Course designed for former international players to achieve professional excellence in football administration.

The former professional footballer established the Jason Roberts Foundation (JRF) in 2007, the JRF is a charitable organization that provides young people opportunities to learn and build confidence through sport in both the UK and the Caribbean.

In the 2010 New York Honours list, Roberts was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to sport in Grenada and London, and, in May 2016, he received an Honorary Doctorate from St. George's University in Grenada.

Roberts was a respected football pundit in both the United Kingdom and the Caribbean. He represented his country, Grenada at the international level, starting his career at Hayes FC and eventually going on to play in the English Premier League playing over 200 matches in the EPL.



## NASSER AL KHORI

Executive Director, Generation Amazing,  
Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy of the State of Qatar

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Nasser Al Khori leads the Generation Amazing Foundation, the human and social legacy project of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, stemming from the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. His leadership has propelled the foundation to leverage football's transformative power for social development, focusing on empowering youth in underprivileged communities worldwide, including those affected by displacement such as refugees and IDPs. Al Khori's strategic direction has been crucial in forging significant partnerships, notably with Concacaf and the IFRC, to broaden the foundation's global impact.

With a rich background in the non-profit sector, Al Khori played a pivotal role in launching Doha Debates and other initiatives under Qatar Foundation. His expertise in sports governance and social responsibility is further recognized through his role as the State of Qatar National Focal Point for the Global Sports Programme at the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and his appointment to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair dedicated to sport governance and social responsibility in and through sport, particularly focusing on Policy and Impact.

Al Khori holds an MBA in Educational Leadership from UCL's Institute of Education and a Bachelor of Science from Carnegie Mellon University, credentials that underscore his commitment to integrating education, sports, and social and policy development.

## UEFA's Euro 2024 Sustainability Strategy



## MICHELE UVA

Director, Social & Environmental Sustainability, UEFA

[Michele Uva](#)

Michele Uva is UEFA Director of Social and Environmental Sustainability, appointed in January 2021.

He has dedicated an entire career to professional sport in several contexts, disciplines and environments. He has performed the role of CEO in sports organisations such as the Italian Football Association (FIGC), the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), professional football clubs (Parma and Lazio), basketball club (Lottomatica Roma) and volleyball clubs (Bologna, Treviso and Matera), as well as Deputy Commissioner in Italian Serie A football league.

Between 2017 and 2020 he was UEFA Vice-president, Chairman of Club Licensing Committee and member of several UEFA Committee: Finance, Club Competition SA, Strategic Steering, Professional Football Strategic, Women.

Author of six books on sport and football industry, he is currently a lecturer for several masters organised by international and Italian universities.

## Paris 2024 Olympic Games Sustainability Strategy



### NICOLAS DE RIVIÈRE

Permanent Representative of the Mission of France to the United Nations

 @NdeRiviere

Nicolas de Rivière took office as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in New York on 8th July 2019.

A graduate from the "Condorcet" class of French Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA), de Rivière was previously Director General of Political and Security Affairs at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (2014-2019). He also served as Assistant Secretary for United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and Francophonie (2011-2014) and Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in New York (2009-2010).

Vice-President of EADS-Astrium in 2001-2002, de Rivière then served in the offices of two Foreign Ministers: first, as Counselor for Economic Affairs, Asia and North America in the office of Dominique de Villepin (2002-2004), then as Counselor for International Economic issues, Asia and Americas in the office of Michel Barnier (2004-2005).

de Rivière has also served at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (2005-2010) as well as in Washington (1997-2001) and The Hague (1994-1997).

de Rivière was conferred the insignia of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in July 2015.



### MARIE BARSACQ

Executive Director of Impact and Legacy of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee

A lawyer by training, Marie Barsacq worked for ten years for the French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF), devoting her energies to employment, training and qualification in the sporting movement. She then joined the French Football Federation (FFF), where she set up the Institute of Football Coaching (IFF) before becoming the FFF's assistant general manager for amateur football. Marie Barsacq is also a member since 2018 of the Executive Committee of the French Football Federation.

Marie Barsacq then took up position as the Director of Impact and Legacy for the Paris 2024 Bid Committee, and then Executive Director within the Organising Committee.



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## Programme Emcee

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### **ROBERT SKINNER**

Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement,  
UN Department of Global Communications

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 [Robert Skinner](#)

Robert Skinner is the Deputy Director and Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement in the Outreach Division of United Nations Department of Global Communications. Prior to this, Robert was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Washington, DC, serving in this role from April 2021 to September 2021 and from November 2015 to July 2018. In between these periods, Robert was Senior Special Advisor in the UN's Department of Global Communications, focusing on the UN's COVID-19 Communications Response Initiative, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

Prior to joining the UN, Robert was the Executive Director in the New York Office of the United Nations Foundation. Before joining the Foundation in 2006, Robert held several positions in the United States Department of State, including as Deputy Spokesperson at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York, and as Public Affairs Officer for the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He also held diplomatic posts in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and San Salvador, El Salvador.