

## Speakers' Biographies

# The Demographic Prospects of Small Island Developing States: *A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue*

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)  
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda  
10-11 a.m. EDT, 30 May 2024  
Press Conference Room / Online

### Moderator



#### **Ms. Daphne Ewing-Chow**

Daphne Ewing-Chow is a well-known and widely published Caribbean journalist with a passion for food systems, the environment, health and the Caribbean. Originally from Barbados, she currently resides in the Cayman Islands. A contributor to a wide number of global publications, including The New York Times, The Sunday Times (London) and the International Monetary Fund (Finance & Development Magazine), Daphne is best known for her work as a Senior

Contributor with Forbes, where her fearless and uncompromising perspective on food systems and the environment, often through the lens of the Caribbean, has made her popular with both global and regional audiences.

### Opening remarks



#### **Mr. Li Junhua**

Li Junhua is UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Li was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. He guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advises the United Nations Secretary-

General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development. He is serving as Secretary-General of the SIDS4 Conference.

## Keynote remarks



### **Mr. Bernard Wagner**

Bernard Wagner is currently serving his third term as mayor of Belize City. Bernard has extensive banking and financial background having worked in that sector for over 30 years. He was nominated by the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments to attend the SIDS4, as a passionate advocate for sustainable urban development.

## Panelists



### **Mr. John Wilmoth**

John Wilmoth took up his position as John Wilmoth the tenth Director of the Population Division on 2 January 2013. He was previously 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.



### **Ms. Ashley Lashley**

Ashley Lashley is a Barbadian UNICEF youth advocate who has a wide focus on social development issues, particularly in health, the environment, children and women's rights. She founded the "Ashley Lashley Foundation" to focus on creating a greater sense of awareness of some of the world's major social, environmental and health issues, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). She also created the "Healthy and Environmentally-Friendly Youth" (HEY) campaign to focus on Climate Change and health.



## **Ms. Jenny Karlsen**

Jenny Karlsen is UNFPA Deputy Director, Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean based in Bridgetown, Barbados. She is a passionate development professional with almost two decades of progressive programming, management and leadership experience in UNFPA and the UN Development System including UNDP, WFP, UNOPS and UN

Coordination. Ms. Karlsen champions the urgency to achieve pace and scale of targeted multi-sectoral investments to address the unfinished business for women, adolescent girls and young people working across government, civil society, academia and the private sector.