

Diplomats Without Borders

Member Biographies

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v.13 July 2025 (1)





Abdul HANNAN – Bangladesh

Career diplomat Abdul Hannan, after more than three and a half decades of diplomatic and government services, retired in 2017. He served as High Commissioner of Bangladesh in the United Kingdom (2014-2016) and was concurrently accredited Ambassador to Ireland. Furthermore, he represented Bangladesh in The Commonwealth, & International Maritime Organization (IMO). Before this, Ambassador Hannan served as Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva & Vienna, and numerous other international organisations including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Conference on Disarmament (CD), and IOM. From Geneva, he was concurrently represented as Ambassador to Switzerland and The Holy See (Vatican). From 2006-2009 he was Ambassador to Oman. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hannan served as Director General and Vice Principal of the Foreign Service Academy; Director (Europe); Director (SAARC); Director, Prime Minister's Office; and Assistant Secretary, attached to Foreign Minister's Office.

During Missions abroad, he served as Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission in Ottawa; Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi, Pakistan; Counsellor (Political) in Kolkata, India; and First Secretary (Political) in Moscow. Ambassador Hannan started his diplomatic career in 1986, before which he served as Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate, as member of Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Cadre in 1983, and Research and Planning Officer in the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Social Affairs (1981-1983).

After retirement (2017), Ambassador Hannan was a consultant to the World Intellectual Property Organization (2017-2018) and Adviser to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FCCCI) – apex trade body in Bangladesh (2020). From 2019-2022, he was Adviser to the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund Advisory Group (UN CERF-AG).

Keywords: #SouthAsia #Russia #Europe #UnitedKingdom #WTO #Disarmament #IOM #Switzerland #Vatican #Canada #WIPO #Commerce #Trade #UNCERF #Switzerland #HolySee #conflictresolution #conflictmediation #capacitybuilding #training



Abeda OSMAN – Afghanistan

Mrs. Abeda Hamidy Osman holds two MA degrees in Public Administration and Education from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. She also holds several diplomas and credentials from prestigious universities in teaching and management. Mrs. Osman has extensive professional experience on various diplomatic missions. She has a deep understanding and awareness of the social fabric of many societies as she served and lived in the Middle East, Europe, the USA and South Asia. Her priceless experience in different societies is a vital tool in a post-conflict country like Afghanistan. She returned to her homeland in 2003 as a veteran expert to make a meaningful contribution in rebuilding and renovating the infrastructure of her country. During her tenure with the Afghan Government, she served as counsellor in the Afghanistan Embassy and Mission to Brussels, NATO and EU, Administrator Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Commissioner to the Civil Servant Commission.

Mrs. Osman recently served as Director General of Human Rights and Women's International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She initiated the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) and prepared two annual progress reports, among many other human rights related treaty reports, that Afghanistan has joined, including the first treaty report on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She hosted the high-level European Union and Afghanistan Dialogue on Human Rights and served as a member of the Anti-Torture Commission of Afghanistan.

Keywords: #Education #Lebanon #MiddleEast #Afghanistan #Europe #USA #SouthAsia #Brussels #NATO #EU #ForeignAffairs #Women #Equality #HumanRights #AntiTorture #UNSC



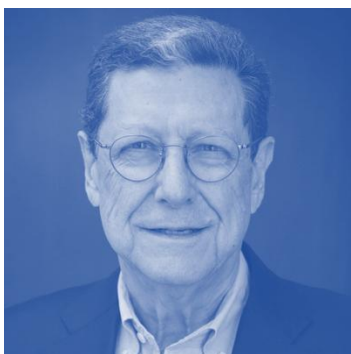
Adamou SEYDOU – Niger

After studying law and international relations, Ambassador Seydou joined the public service of the Republic of Niger, where he worked for 38 years. During these years he alternated between diplomatic and government assignments.

In the diplomatic field, Seydou has been councillor to Germany and Ambassador to France and the United States, as well as permanent representative of Niger at the United Nations in New York. He also worked as director of Legal Affairs and Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

At governmental level he has exercised duties of General Secretary of the Government and Minister in charge of relations with the government. Ambassador Seydou Completed his career as a diplomatic advisor to the National Assembly.

Keywords: #Niger #Africa #UN #Germany #France #USA



Alan DOSS – United Kingdom

Alan Doss is a former Under Secretary General of the United Nations, who worked on UN development, humanitarian and peacekeeping issues and interventions for more than four decades. He represented the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in various African and Asian countries and opened UNDP offices in Vietnam and China. Later he coordinated the multi-agency UN Development Group at UN Headquarters, set up to enhance the cohesion and effectiveness of UN development operations. Subsequently, he was appointed the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the UN peacekeeping missions in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After his retirement from the UN, Alan joined the Kofi Annan Foundation in 2011 as Senior Political Adviser and then as Executive Director. In 2017 Kofi Annan appointed him as President of the Foundation. Alan stepped down from the Foundation in 2020, but continues to support international efforts to promote peace and development as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Peace Division of UNITAR and as a member of the board of INTERPEACE, the Geneva-based peacebuilding organisation. In 2021 he published, *A Peacekeeper in Africa: Learning from UN Interventions in other People's Wars*, which The Financial Times described as “a vivid personal memoir, and a deeply informed reflection on the international community's role in ending deadly conflicts in Africa.”

Keywords: #PeaceKeeping #Development #UN #UNDP #Africa #Asia #Intervention #Vietnam #China #Liberia #Congo #UNITAR #INTERPEACE



Amal MOURAD – Egypt

Ambassador Mourad recently retired as an Egyptian diplomat, after 38 years of experience in different regions, across bilateral and multilateral fields.

Mourad served as Assistant Foreign Minister for Policy Planning, Ambassador in the Czech Republic (simultaneously in Montenegro) and Ambassador in Chile.

Now diplomatically retired, she is interested in sharing the lessons and benefits of her diverse diplomatic and political experience for the common good.

Keywords: #NorthAfrica #Egypt #Policy #Europe #CzechRepublic #Montenegro #Chile #SouthAmerica

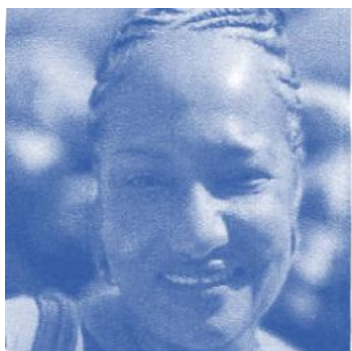


Andras VAMOS-GOLDMAN – Canada

Andras Vamos-Goldman currently teaches international law at New York University's Center for Global Affairs. Previously, he helped to found and led Justice Rapid Response (JRR), an intergovernmental facility improving the credibility of accountability for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations through professionalising investigations. As Executive Director of JRR, he helped to create and build a facility that is ensuring that criminal justice professionals from around the world, specifically trained in international investigations, are readily deployable at the request of the international community.

A former Canadian diplomat, Vamos-Goldman's career included assignments to the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Somalia; Washington DC; the United Nations in New York, where he served as both Political Coordinator and as Legal Adviser; as well as the position of Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa. Vamos-Goldman's involvement with international criminal justice includes an instrumental role in the establishment of the Sierra Leone Special Court, and becoming the founding Chair of its Management Committee. He also served on the Bureau of the International Criminal Court's Preparatory Committee. As a member of both the Law Society of Ontario, Canada, as well as the New York Bar, he has practiced private international law with law firm Stikeman Elliot, and as Law and Policy Adviser to the CEO of the University of British Columbia's Liu Institute for Global Initiative.

Keywords: #Africa #Kenya #Uganda #Somalia #USA #UN #Law #SouthAfrica #Justice #SierraLeone #Canada #LOS #NYU #investigations #ICC



Ann ALLEN-ENCONTRE – British Virgin Islands & Guyana

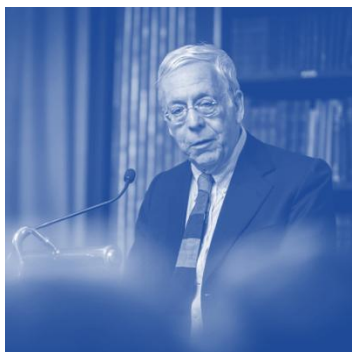
Ann Allen-Encontre is a seasoned international lawyer and senior humanitarian official with over three decades of service across government, diplomacy, and the United Nations. Trained in Barbados, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom, she has worked at the highest levels of public administration and multilateral diplomacy, including senior leadership roles within UNHCR in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Allen-Encontre has held multiple Representative positions with UNHCR, including in Djibouti, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ethiopia—where she led operations during overlapping crises including the COVID-19 pandemic and civil war. As Deputy Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Africa, she also served as Regional Refugee Coordinator for the South Sudan emergency, overseeing large-scale repatriation and reintegration efforts, including coordination with UNICEF and WFP.

She served as Director of Ethics at UNHCR Headquarters and, most recently, as Acting Director of the Ethics Office. In this role she was a key voice in institutional integrity, accountability, and staff protection. Her tenure includes leading the establishment of a Sanctions Unit for the Government of the British Virgin Islands and serving as a member of INTERPOL's Standing Committee on Ethical Matters and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Earlier in her career, she served as Registrar of the Supreme Court and Registrar of Companies in the British Virgin Islands, with additional responsibilities as Magistrate, Supervisor of Elections, and Admiralty Marshall. She is fluent in English and French and has a long-standing commitment to adolescent rights, gender equality, and humanitarian protection.

Keywords: #BVI #Guyana #UNHCR #Humanitarian #Africa #SouthSudan #CoteDIvoire #DRC #Ethiopia #Europe #Ethics #Law #Repatriation #Mediation #Gender #Adolescents #CrisisManagement #Caribbean #French #Compliance #HumanitarianLaw #RefugeeProtection #Caribbean #GenderEquality #Mediation #CrisisResponse #LegalReform #INTERPOL



Antonio ARMELLINI – Italy

A professional diplomat, Antonio Armellini was roving Ambassador to the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe), from 1990-92, Deputy Ambassador in London in 1992-98, Ambassador to Algeria in 1998-2000, Ambassador-at-large for International Anti-Terrorism in 2001-02, Ambassador-at-large and Special Envoy to Iraq in 2003-04, Ambassador to India and Nepal in 2004-08, and Ambassador to the OECD (Paris) in 2008-10. Other foreign postings include Brussels, Warsaw, Addis Ababa, Vienna, Helsinki; he was Spokesman for European Commissioner Altiero Spinelli in 1972-74 and served as Assistant Private Secretary to Foreign Minister and Prime Minister Aldo Moro, in 1969-72 and 1974-75.

He served as Director of SAVE Spa (airport of Venice) in 1986-89, Director of BIIS Bank in 2010-12, Director of Thetis Spa in 2010-13. He was special advisor to the Mayor of Venice in 2011-2014 and Commissioner of IsIAO, Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient, in 2011-2016.

With a professional background in European affairs and international security, his interests include the geo-politics of the Asian region and multilateral economic cooperation, on which he has written and lectured extensively. He was visiting lecturer in comparative politics at LUISS University in Rome in 2003-04, and in comparative international relations at “Ca’ Foscari” University in Venice, in 2008-09. He is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome, Aspen Institute Italia in Rome, Centro Studi Politica Internazionale (CESPI) in Rome, Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF) in London, amongst others.

He is an editorialist with Il Corriere della Sera in Milan and a regular contributor to The Huffington Post Italy and various journals on international affairs. Recent books include: *l’Elefante ha Messo le Ali*, on contemporary India, (Bocconi University Press, 2008, 2013) published in English as *If the Elephant Flies* (Har Anand Press, 2012); *Né Centauro né Chimera – Modesta Proposta per una Europa Plurale* with Gerardo Mombelli (Marsilio Editori, 2016); *L’Italia e la Carta di Parigi per una Nuova Europa della CSCE* (Editoriale Scientifica, 2022).

Armellini graduated in Law (with a dissertation on international economics) from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in 1967, and was Fulbright and ASSU Scholar at Stanford University (California) in 1962-63. He is bilingual in English, has excellent French and limited notions of Polish.

Keywords: #Italy #Europe #EU #London #EU #Algeria #Iraq #India #Nepal #Asia #MENA #AntiTerrorism #EC #Law #Economics #IISS #AII #CESPI #IAI #OMFIF



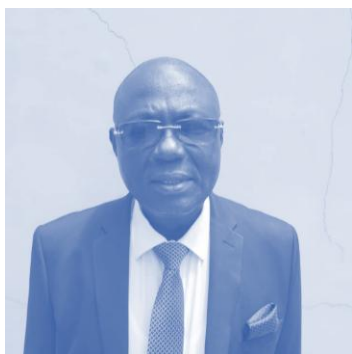
Antonio BERNARDINI – Italy

Antonio Bernardini joined the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. He served in different positions in Italian Embassies and Permanent Missions in New Delhi, Geneva, Tokyo and New York. As coordinator of multilateral affairs and emergency, Bernardini worked for the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, at the Italian MFA, and later became a Diplomatic advisor to the Minister of Environment with the Prodi (2006-2008) and Berlusconi (2008-2010) Governments. He was Deputy Permanent Representative at Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, New York and Deputy Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He held Ambassador positions to Brazil and Suriname, and as a Permanent

Representative of Italy to International Organizations (OECD, IEA, NEA, ITF, FATF, ESA, EUTELSAT, OIV, CIHEAM, OIE, IIF, OIML, BIPM, CEAC).

In 2020 he was Co-chair of the OECD-MENA Governance Programme. He has recently served as Special Envoy for the Italian Presidency of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, and as Chair of the Committee for the recruitment of Italian Diplomats. Bernardini has also been nominated for Special Ambassador for RomeEXPO2030 candidature.

Keywords: #MENA #Italy #Brazil #Suriname #OECD #EU #India #Geneva #Japan #NewYork #space



Babatunde O. AJISOMO – Nigeria

Ambassador Tunde O. Ajisomo served as a Nigerian career Diplomat for more than 33 years in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as at the Nigerian Missions in Africa, Europe and Asia. He started his diplomatic career in 1982 as a Protocol and Consular Officer under the tutelage of seasoned and accomplished Chief of Protocols in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency. Later, he served with dedication and commitment in various Departments in the Ministry, such as Administration, Budget and Finance, West African Affairs, European Affairs, Regions and International Organization as well as a substantive Director in the Office of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Ajisomo's exposure to diplomatic practice and consular services, including activities and rules of procedures of International Organisations, helped him greatly in discharging his responsibilities throughout his diplomatic career, including as Principal Representative of the President of the Republic of Nigeria to the Government of Vietnam, as well as a Special Representative/Ambassador of the President of ECOWAS Commission to the Government of the Republic of Liberia. He is conversant with the workings of regional and international Organizations, particularly ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations. His sterling professional career in the Foreign Service, coupled with his long working experience with ECOWAS Institutions and Agencies, has gained him proficiency in regional and multilateral diplomacy, including building collaborative partnerships.

Highly committed to regional values, protocol and procedures of bilateral and multilateral Institutions, Ajisomo has actively promoted democracy, rule of law and human rights. He understands the nexus between peace, rule of law, security and sustainable development. With diverse experiences in different settings and cultures, he was able to facilitate resolution of various conflicts at all levels, through promotion of dialogue, mediation and reconciliation during his tenure in Liberia from 2013-2020. He believes strongly in the promotion of collaborative support and engagements between the public and the private sector in the advancement of an inclusive and sustainable developmental process. He handled complex bilateral consular cases during his diplomatic sojourn in Republic of Benin, The Netherlands, Vietnam & Thailand, involving visitation to prisons, exchange of prisoners, deportation of illegal migrants in accordance with Geneva Conventions as well as issuance of visas and passports.

Furthermore, Ajisomo served as Directing Staff and Resource Person at the Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he taught newly recruited and mid-career Foreign Service officers on Protocol and diplomatic practice, among others. Given his strong commitment to capacity and human resource development, Ambassador Ajisomo provided pro-bono teaching services on Protocol practice and National Orders of Precedence as well as seminal papers on ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement, Rights of Residence and Establishment and other regional topical issues to officials of the Foreign Institute of the Liberia Foreign Service and graduate students of the Kofi Annan Centre for Conflict Transformation of the University of Liberia during his tenure.

Keywords: #Negotiation #BilateralDiplomacy #MultilateralDiplomacy #Dialogue #Mediation #Reconciliation #ECOWAS #INGOs #Finance #ForeignAffairs #UN #AU #Africa #WestAfrica #Nigeria #Benin #Netherlands #Europe #SouthEastAsia #Vietnam #Thailand #Liberia



Bo GORANSSON – Sweden

Bo Goransson has held multiple positions in the development sphere in a number of countries. A graduate from the Stockholm School of Economics, he initially worked for a management consultancy firm, charged with reorganizing the water supply in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, followed by a long-term assignment in the Sudan, restructuring their large rural water operations.

He then joined Sida, the Swedish International Development cooperation Agency, and was responsible for its programme in Tanzania in 1974-77, based in Dar es Salaam. He worked at the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia from 1986 to 1988, with soil conservation, forestry and land rehabilitation in famine-stricken Welo. He left Ethiopia to take up the post as State Secretary for Labour in the Swedish Government.

In 1994 he was appointed Director General and Chairman of the Board of Sida, a post he held for 9 years. He left Sida to become the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, with accreditation to the Seychelles, Comoros, Somalia, Burundi and Rwanda. Supporting Rwanda after the genocide and assisting Somalia in its effort to move away from conflict, were the main challenges in that period.

Goransson was the Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat and the President of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. After leaving Kenya he served for two years as a Special Advisor to the President of the African Development Bank. He is a member of the Advisory Board of UNITAR.

Keywords: #Sweden #SIDA #Africa #Tanzania #Ethiopia #Kenya #UN #UNEP #UNHabitat #UNITAR #AfricanDevelopmentBank #InternationalDevelopment



Carlos APPELGREN – Chile

Carlos Appelgren studied Economics in the University of Chile and an MA in Political Science, in GMU, Virginia (USA). Graduate from the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, Appelgren was posted to Panamá, Washington DC and as DCM to the Embassy of Chile in Argentina. Ambassador to New Zealand (2000-2004), Appelgren was later Representative of the Latin American Association of Commerce (2004-2006) to Uruguay, followed by the appointment as Representative to the European Union (2006-2009) in Belgium and Luxemburg.

In Chile, he was Director for North America, Central America and the Caribbean; Chief of Staff for the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and General Director for Consular and Migration Affairs. In the private sector he has been academic, director of diverse institutions and consultant. He has written articles, essays and documents related to his profession, and edited two fiction books. Appelgren also founded and is CEO of Argateint, a consultant company to develop projects in renewable energies.

Keywords: #Chile #LatinAmerica #SouthAmerica #CentralAmerica #Argentina #Uruguay #Panama #Caribbean #NewZealand #EU #Belgium #Luxembourg #Migration



Carmenza JARAMILLO – Colombia

Ambassador Jaramillo served as the Ambassador of Colombia to Hungary (2019-2022), Portugal (2016-2019), the People's Republic of China (2012-2016), and India (1993-1997). In addition to ambassadorial roles, Jaramillo held positions as Consul General of Colombia in Miami (1999-2007) and Hong Kong (1990-1992), and as Dean of the Consular Corps in Miami, and President of the Ambassador Women Association in Portugal. She started her diplomatic career with early roles at UNESCO (1986-1987) and as a Delegate of Colombia to the Conference of the Antarctic (1989).

Born and educated in Colombia, with early studies at the Universidad de los Andes and Colegio Mayor Nuestra Señora del Rosario, she furthered studies in diplomacy at Vatican City and the The London School of Economics, and the Sorbonne Paris II.

Fluent in English, French, and Spanish.

Keywords: #Chile #LatinAmerica #SouthAmerica #CentralAmerica #Argentina #Uruguay #Panama #Caribbean #NewZealand #EU #Belgium #Luxembourg #Migration



Cecilia Forgive WREH-McGILL – Liberia

Cecilia Forgive McGill is a distinguished international affairs and finance professional with over four decades of leadership across diplomacy, global development, and public administration. With more than 25 years of experience at the United Nations, she has served in key roles advancing multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, strengthening global partnerships, and managing complex international operations; experience in Peacekeeping Operations across various regions, including Africa, Asia, the Balkans, the Middle East, Eastern and Northern Europe.

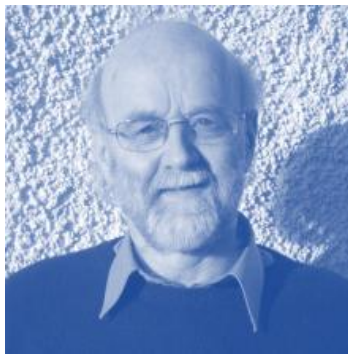
As a seasoned Diplomat and former UN Director/Chief of Mission Support, Cecilia has led cross-continental teams in overseeing strategic functions including budgeting, human resources, procurement, IT systems, and logistics. Her diplomatic expertise, persuasive communication, and crisis management skills have been instrumental in brokering agreements and building consensus across diverse cultural and political landscapes.

Cecilia also served as a senior executive at The United States Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, managing administrative operations and working closely with the U.S. Department of Defense, State Department, USAID, CDC, and PEPFAR on HIV research programs in Kericho, Kenya. Her grassroots development work includes her role as an Organizational and Community Development Associate with the United States Peace Corps in Albania and Montenegro, where she led capacity-building initiatives for youth and women.

In academia, Cecilia was a part-time professor of International Financial Management at Morgan State University, sharing her real-world expertise with future global leaders. She holds an MBA in International Business from Morgan State University, USA and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting/ Auditing from Saint Augustine's University, USA.

Cecilia remains a committed advocate for global cooperation, inclusive development, and transformative leadership.

Keywords: #Liberia #Africa #EasternEurope #MiddleEast #NorthernEurope #Kenya #UN #UNGA #UNICEF #Peacebuilding #Medical #HIV #PeaceCorps #WFP



Clem MCCARTNEY – Ireland

Clem McCartney is an independent research consultant from Northern Ireland. From the mid-1980s his main interest has been in conflict resolution, mediation and peace building and he has worked with the Centre for the Study of Conflict in the University of Ulster. From 1992 he has been an independent consultant and has worked with a variety of organisations and in many regions of the world. He has been an associate of Conciliation Resources and contributed to their Accord Series, editing the edition on Northern Ireland - *Striking a Balance, the Northern Ireland Peace Process*, and was an advisor on their Comparative Learning Project which compared the experiences of the peace processes in different regions. From 2007 until the end of 2019, he was policy and content coordinator to the Shared Societies Project of the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid, the network of former heads of state and heads of government, focusing on policies to promote inter community harmony and supporting initiatives to reduce tensions.

Keywords: #NorthernIreland #Ireland #ConflictResolution #PeaceBuilding #ClubDeMadrid



Daniel MORRISON – United States of America

Dan Morrison is a senior global public affairs & communications executive and thought leader who has spent his career at the nexus of the public and private sectors, strategic communications, policy, geopolitics, economics, technology, and data. He has led diverse, international teams for some of the world's most recognisable organisations in New York, Washington, Brussels, and Paris for Bloomberg, IBM, the U.S. State Department, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Pew Research Center. Dan was previously a speechwriter for Secretary of State Colin Powell as well as IBM's senior executive suite. At the State Department, he was Senior Policy Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs with a portfolio

of Europe, Eurasia, Russia, and Turkey. He also worked closely on public diplomacy issues and was a member of the Policy Planning team.

Dan, a former TEDx speaker, is Senior Advisor to Acumen Public Affairs in Brussels, and an Adjunct Professor of Political and Strategic Communications at American University in Washington. He is a mentor with Techstars, a global accelerator working with early-stage entrepreneurs. Dan is also an advisor to the Coalition for Integrity (formerly Transparency International USA), which plays a pivotal role in raising public awareness of the effects of corruption on societies. He is a Fellow at the Ditchley Foundation in the UK, which enables better policy-making, deepens journalistic insight, and helps corporate leaders think through their impact and role in society. Dan is also a member of the Bretton Woods Committee in Washington, which is committed to demonstrating the value of multilateralism and improving the performance of international financial institutions. He is a member of the Board of Visitors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dan has been a financial journalist at Bloomberg, which nominated him for a Pulitzer Prize, and a consultant to international companies navigating the European Union in Brussels. He has also advised the Managing Director of the IMF and team, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone that successfully prosecuted Charles Taylor following the blood diamond conflict.

Dan has executive leadership training from Wharton, Harvard Business School, and the London School of Economics. He recently completed a certificate course at Wharton on AI for Decision Making: Business Strategies and Applications. He has a BA in American Studies from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and an MPhil in International Relations from Cambridge University. He is the author of the financial and technology thriller, *Bandwidth*, and co-author of the children's book, *Backpacks & Baguettes*.

Keywords: #InternationalRelations #Journalism #Communications #Europe #Eurasia #Russia #OECD #SierraLeone #Finance #G20 #geopolitics #economics #politicalcommunications #investing #venturecapital



Deepak BHOJWANI – India

Deepak Bhojwani joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1978. Since then, he has served in three Continents - Asia, Europe and South America - as well as the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. During his career, he was accredited as Ambassador in seven Latin American countries, being resident Ambassador in Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba, whilst concurrently accredited as Ambassador in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Haiti; and was Consul General in Sao Paulo, accredited to the southern States of Brazil.

Bhojwani has specialised in analysing the potential for political, commercial and economic interaction between Latin America and India, identifying complementarities and cultural peculiarities, through his experience across the region. His fundamental interest, through his Consultancy LATINDIA, is to enhance awareness and understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean in India, identify and incubate opportunities for strategic cooperation, investment and economic exchanges. He also conducts and directs research on the region and its relations with India.

His book *Latin America, the Caribbean and India* was published by the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi in 2015. His writings and speeches can be accessed on the blog on his website www.latindia.in.

Keywords: #India #Colombia #Venezuela #Cuba #Ecuador #CostaRica #DominicanRepublic #Haiti #Brazil #Caribbean #Asia #SouthAmerica #LatinAmerica #Europe #SouthAsia



Diego GOMEZ PICKERING – Mexico

Mr. Gomez Pickering graduated from the Matías Romero Institute's Mexican Foreign Service program, following undergraduate and master's studies in International Relations, Development and Journalism at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Columbia University in the City New York, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in New Delhi, respectively. He holds a PhD in Diplomacy and International Affairs from Euclid University.

He is an associate and senior fellow at the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI), where he oversees the International Systems Research and Studies Unit since 2021. He is also a member of Chatham House–Royal Institute of International Affairs and of CIDOB–Barcelona Centre for International Affairs.

As part of his diplomatic career, he served in Vienna, Washington DC and Nairobi. As well as being Mexican Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Mexico's Consul General in New York City. As part of his multilateral experience, he worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) at its field office in Damascus and for UNESCO's Creative Cities Network at the Organization's headquarters in Paris. He has been conferred the rank of Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order by the government of the United Kingdom and the rank of Commander of the Antonio José de Irisarri Order by the government of Guatemala.

Mr. Gómez Pickering is a polyglot and the author of eight books, the most recent being "Africa, Radiography of a Continent" (Taurus, 2023). His writings have been translated into English, French, Russian, Catalan, Arabic, Swahili, and Tagalog.

Keywords: #PublicDiplomacy #CulturalDiplomacy #Multilateralism #UnitedNations #UNESCO #UNRWA #Mexico #UnitedKingdom #USA #Africa #Kenya #Syria #Refugees #Migration #Journalism #Communication #LatinAmerica



Dinesh BHATTARAI – Nepal

Dinesh Bhattarai is a former Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Foreign Affairs Adviser to Prime Ministers of Nepal. As Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation Bhattarai was concurrently accredited to the Republics of Italy and Croatia. He has held positions as First Secretary (Political Affairs) at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington D.C., in which he served as Charge d'Affaires a.i.

A career Foreign Service Official from 1983 to 2012, Dr Bhattarai worked in various capacities in Divisions of Protocol; Europe and America; Southeast Asia and Pacific; and North Asia. He also worked at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He headed the Division of South Asia, SAARC, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Dr Bhattarai headed the United Nations, International Organizations and International Law, and Multilateral Economic Affairs Divisions (MEAD) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bhattarai headed the group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) within the UN system in Geneva from 2009-2012. He led several official delegations of Nepal, and has been a member of the Prime Ministerial delegations in bilateral/multilateral visits to the UN General Assembly, and SAARC/BIMSTEC summits.

He is a faculty member of the Master's Program in Crisis Management Studies at the Tribhuvan University, Nepal and also teaches at the Department of Peace, Conflict and Development Studies, Tribhuvan University.

Keywords: #SouthEastAsia #Pacific #NorthAsia #Europe #SouthAsia #SAARC #UN #Law #Finance #LDCs #Nepal #Switzerland #Italy #Croatia #BIMSTEC #Cooperation #Multilateral



Dominik BARTSCH – Germany

Dominik Bartsch was a senior officer with UNHCR and held the position of Representative in Jordan (2020-2024), Germany (2018-2020) and India (2012-2014). Over 34 years, he worked in major humanitarian emergencies and refugee operations, including Afghanistan, Zambia, and Kenya. During the Iraq emergency in 2015, he was assigned as the United Nations Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator.

He also served in key management positions at UNHCR HQ in Geneva, and the UN HQ in New York. In 2006, he was seconded to the office of the Secretary-General, tasked with opening the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and setting up the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

Dominik is currently Chairman of the Board of the Euro/MENA Initiative. He is active as a philanthropy advisor and holds an appointment as a Fellow with Fordham University in New York.

Keywords: #SyriaCrisis #HornOfAfrica #RefugeeOperations #Peacebuilding #Philanthropy #Localisation #Europe #EU #Germany #Jordan #UNHCR #UNHQ



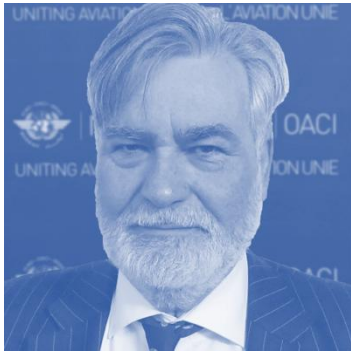
Donald BOOTH – United States of America

Donald Booth served as U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan from August 2013 until January 2017, and again as Special Envoy for Sudan from June 2019 until August 2021. Booth convinced South Sudan's warring parties to participate in regionally mediated negotiations that resulted in the August 2015 peace agreement. Prior to his appointment as Special Envoy, Booth served as U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, where he facilitated an expansion of regional security cooperation and created a regular dialogue on controversial issues of democratic governance and human rights. He served as Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, where he focused on restraining the HIV/AIDS epidemic, expanding press freedom and fighting

corruption. As Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, he played a crucial role in ensuring Liberia's post-conflict transitional government held internationally supervised elections on time and that all parties accepted the outcome. He also secured Liberian government agreement to a major international role in an anti-corruption program - the Government and Economic Management and Assistance Program (GEMAP) that facilitated economic investment and recovery. As a U.S. trade negotiator, he helped devise an agreement among major producers that avoided disruption of the aluminium market in the early 1990s.

In the U.S. State Department, Booth held positions as Director of the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Director of the Office of West African Affairs and Deputy Director of the Office of Southern African Affairs. He served as Counsellor for Economic Affairs in Greece and as Division Chief for Developed Country Bilateral Trade Affairs in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. After retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2017, Ambassador Booth worked as a consultant to The Carter Center's Sudan and U.S.-China-Africa Cooperation programs. Following his recall as Special Envoy for Sudan, he is co-chairing the Woodrow Wilson Center's "Sudan's Working Group" and volunteers regularly with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together.

Keywords: #Sudan #SouthSudan #Zambia #PublicHealth #Liberia #GEMAP #Intervention #Mediation #Africa #PeaceKeeping #Ethiopia #TradeNegotiations



Douglas Scott PROUDFOOT – Canada

Douglas Proudfoot is a former Canadian Ambassador who served as head of mission in Bamako, Juba and Ramallah. Prior to these assignments, he was posted in Vienna – where he represented Canada at the IAEA, CTBTO and UNODC – as well as to London, Delhi and Nairobi. At headquarters he headed the Afghanistan and Sudan Task Forces. Most recently led the Canadian mission to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). He is currently based in Ottawa.

Areas of expertise include Africa; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; fragile states & post-conflict situations; non-proliferation, arms control & disarmament; mediation; aviation; and, of course, Canada.

Keywords: #Canada #Kenya #India #Sudan #SouthSudan #Mali #UK #Africa #Afghanistan #Palestine #Commonwealth #EmergencyResponse #PostConflict #Mediation #Aviation #Disarmament #NonProliferation #ArmsControl



Ed KRONENBURG – Netherlands

Ed Kronenburg is a former Dutch diplomat who held ambassadorial positions in Beijing (2017-2019) and Paris (2012-2017). Prior to that he was secretary-general at the MFA in The Hague (2008-2012). His career also included postings to Jakarta, Paris (OECD Permanent Representation), Brussels (EU Permanent Representation) as well as secondments to the OECD-secretariat, the European Commission and NATO (director of cabinet SG NATO).

Currently he is a senior advisor on geopolitics to the consultancy company FGS Global, is chairman of the supervisory board of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy – a foundation with field offices in some 10 countries mainly i.a. in Africa and South-America. He also chairs the supervisory board of the Leiden Asia Centre.

Keywords: #Netherlands #Asia #China #Indonesia #NATO #France #EU #OECD #Geopolitics #MultipartyDemocracy



Edward GREENE – Guyana

Edward Greene is currently Chancellor of the University of Guyana and the CEO of Global Frontier Development and Advisory Services (GOFAD), a think tank. He is the former UN Secretary General Special Envoy for HIV in the Caribbean, Assistant Secretary General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Senior Adviser Public Policy, Health and Human Development PAHO/WHO. At the University of West Indies, he was the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Development and Alumni Relations and served as the University Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research and Professor of Development Research. He was also an advisor in social policy development to many Caribbean governments and served on many boards. He was also

Director to the Canadian International Institute for Peace and Security and a Consultant to several international agencies including the World Bank, the EU, UNDP and UNESCO. He chaired the CARICOM Steering Committee for Climate Change and Sustainable Development and was a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat High Level Panel for South-South Cooperation in Higher Education. He is the author of over 60 articles and 10 books, including *Peace and Security in the Caribbean and Central America* (with Jorge Beruff and Peter Figueroa.) McMillan, U.K., 1991 and *Peace, Security and Development in the Caribbean* (with Anthony Bryan, and Timothy Shaw) McMillan, U.K., 1990.

Keywords: #PublicHealth #Guyana #Caribbean #WHO #Development #Caribbean #CentralAmerica #Finance #Security #Canada #WB #EU #UNDP #UNESCO #CARICOM #Commonwealth



Elisabeth PAPE – Germany

Elisabeth Pape spent almost 30 years as a European Civil Servant, working at the nexus of development, economics, and foreign relations. Her duty stations alternated between Brussels, Africa, and the US. Along the way, she gained a network of trusted interlocutors around the globe. As former EU Ambassador to Namibia, she is familiar with high-level political dialogues. She is equally conversant with technical discussions with government officials at all levels as well as multilateral organisations on governance and economic reform programs.

In terms of institutional collaboration, Pape brings—apart from her European Union DNA—a background of working in sync with the World Bank (including two years in the office of the Chief Economist and Sector Manager for Africa), the IMF, the United Nations (her very last post was in the EU Representation in New York), the OECD, the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), the OACPS (79 countries closely linked to the EU through the Lomé/Cotonou/Samoa Agreements), and the g7+, a group of 20 self-declared fragile countries.

Convinced that conflict is the ultimate barrier to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Pape enhanced her skills in conflict prevention and resolution. She completed an M.A. in Mediation and Conflict Management at the Viadrina Europa University in Frankfurt/Oder in 2013. Furthermore, she was trained in Peace Mediation in the EU context as well as in Gender in Peace Operations at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya. Pape was also part of the first cohort of people trained on Recovery and Peace Building Assessments (RPBAs) in Addis Ababa, a joint initiative by the EU, the World Bank, and the UN. The three institutions jointly organised the World Reconstruction Conference 3 with 800 participants in Brussels in 2017, for which she took the lead on the EU side. She helped shape the European Union's Integrated Approach to fragility and resilience.

Pape has furthermore set up training courses, including online training on conflict sensitivity and conflict analysis. She frequently served as a resource, including at the NATO training on the Integrated Approach. While posted in New York, she covered, among other dossiers, the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus and joined the UN Peacebuilding Fund on a mission to the Central African Republic.

When she retired in September 2021, she moved from New York to Berlin. With the intention to give back to society, she got involved in the modern hospice movement and trained as an end-of-life companion. She also joined the Board of the Alumni Association of Viadrina Mediation Students (2022–2024) and recently became a Board Member of the Association of European Union Retirees.

Keywords: #Germany #EU #Namibia #Development #Economics #ForeignRelations #WorldBank #Africa #IMF #WB #OECD #UN #INCAF #OACPS #G7+ #Pacific #Resilience #NATO #Training #Conflict #ConflictAnalysis #HumanitarianDevelopment #Mediation #ConflictManagement #CentralAfricanRepublic #NewYork #Kenya



Enayatullah NABIEL – Afghanistan

Enayatullah Nabel is a seasoned Afghan diplomat and policy advisor with over four decades of experience in international relations, economic diplomacy, and public policy. Educated at Kabul University (BA in Law and Political Science, 1968), the University of Nebraska (Postgraduate Certificate in Management and Planning, 1975), and the City University of New York (MA in Political Science, 1981), he further honed his expertise with advanced training in diplomacy, leadership, and public policy.

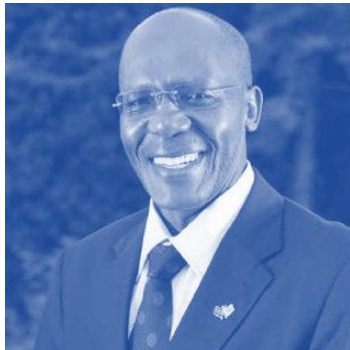
His distinguished career includes serving as Ambassador of Afghanistan to the Netherlands (2011–2014), where he engaged in high-level bilateral dialogues and delivered lectures on regional cooperation, NATO's role in Afghanistan, and transboundary water law at Dutch universities and political forums. As Director General of Economic Affairs at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009–2011), he spearheaded regional economic initiatives, organizing major conferences such as the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Islamabad (2009) and Istanbul (2011).

Nabel also contributed extensively to governance reforms in Afghanistan, serving as Senior Advisor to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (2014–2016) and Finance (2016–2020). In these roles, he led policy design,

institutional restructuring, and capacity-building programs, including seminars for senior officials on strategy implementation and monitoring. His earlier work as an international civil servant with the UN (2002–2007) took him to Iraq, Liberia, and New York, focusing on post-conflict recovery and multilateral coordination.

A dedicated educator, he has taught Transboundary Water Law and Public Policy at Afghanistan's Institute of Diplomacy and lectured at Ramapo College (USA) on international relations. His scholarly contributions include articles on human rights, regional economic cooperation, and Afghanistan's geopolitical challenges, published in national dailies and academic journals.

Keywords: #Afghanistan #Netherlands #EconomicDiplomacy #UN #RegionalCooperation #PublicPolicy #WaterLaw #NATO #CAREC #SAARC #Governance



Eric KIMANI – Kenya

Eric Kimani is a Global Ambassador for HelpAge International and is also an author and philanthropist. Prior to his appointment as Global Ambassador in 2012, Mr. Kimani served as Chair of the Board of Trustees and a member of the board before that. He is also a respected business leader in Kenya having led as CEO of two of Kenya's large public companies. Further to this, he has served in an advisory and non-executive capacity on many commercial and non-commercial boards both in Kenya and internationally. Mr. Kimani is also the Founder Chairman of the Kenyan not-for-profit Palmhouse Foundation whose mandate is to finance the secondary education of disadvantaged Kenyan youth in high schools in Kenya. He was bestowed with the Order of Moran of

the Burning Spear (MBS) for his service to the community by His Excellency President of Kenya Hon. Mwai Kibaki in 2011. Mr. Kimani is also a senior Rotarian leader at continental and global level and has served three times as trainer for Rotary leaders in Chicago, USA between 2016 and 2020. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FCPA) in Kenya and holds an LLB(Hons) degree from the University of London.

Keywords: #Kenya #Business #Education #HelpAge #Philanthropy #Africa



Ertugrul APAKAN – Turkey

Ertugrul Apakan was the Chief Monitor, OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (2014-2019). From 2009-2012, Ambassador Apakan served as Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations. During this period, he also served in the Security Council. Previously, he held the positions of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA, 2006-2009) and Deputy Undersecretary for Bilateral Political Relations (2004-2006).

Throughout his diplomatic career (1971-2012), Ambassador Apakan has served at various levels in Ankara and in a number of diplomatic missions: Embassies in Vienna and Kuwait, Permanent Mission to the UN Geneva Office and as Deputy Chief of Mission and later on as Ambassador-Embassy in Lefkoşa. Ambassador Apakan has served at the Head of the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) which was established to maintain stability, reconciliation and peace in this country. He has worked there since 2014. Apakan also served as the coordinator of the Working Groups on Security in the framework of Minsk talks on the Ukrainian crisis.

Ertugrul Apakan was born in 1947 in Izmir. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University with a M.A. degree in International Economics.

Keywords: #Ukraine #Turkey #UN #Austria #Kuwait #Cyprus #OSCE #Security



Euripides EVRIVIADES – Cyprus

Euripides Evriviades was High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 2013. Before assuming this post, he was Deputy Permanent Secretary / Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2012–2013) serving, intermittently, as Acting Permanent Secretary. Prior, he served as Ambassador / Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe (2008–2012), having also chaired its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (2011). Previously, he was Political Director of the Ministry (2006–2008), having concurrent accreditation to the State of Kuwait.

Evriviades was Ambassador to the United States of America and non-resident High Commissioner to Canada, serving concomitantly as: the Permanent Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization; the Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States; and Representative to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (2003–2006). He also served as ambassador to the Netherlands (2000–2003) and to Israel (1997–2000). Earlier in his career, he held positions at Cypriot embassies in Germany (1986–1988); USSR/Russia (1988–1993); and Libya (1995).

He started his diplomatic career in 1976 at the Cyprus Consulate General in New York as Vice-Consul (1976–78) and later as Consul (1978–1982). He also held the position of First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations (1980–1982). From 1976 to 1980, he was a member of the Cyprus Delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (4th–10th sessions).[8]

High Commissioner Evriviades holds a master's degree in Public Administration (MPA - policy area of concentration: International Affairs and Security) from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (1984) which he attended as a Fulbright Fellow. He graduated (cum laude, 1976) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire. He received a Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, from his alma mater, the University of New Hampshire (2005).

Keywords: #Cyprus #UK #Kuwait #Canada #USA #Netherlands #Israel #Europe #CouncilOfEurope #WorldBank #IMF #UN



Farid ZARIF – Afghanistan

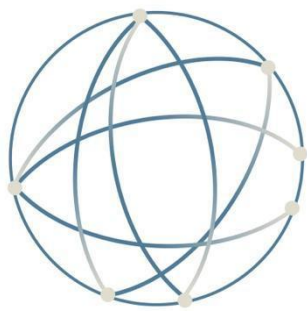
A citizen of Afghanistan, Farid Zarif served as the last Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), bringing the 15-year-old peacekeeping operation to a successful close in March 2018. Until his last UN assignment, Mr. Zarif was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK, 2011–2015). In his last assignment at Headquarters, he served as Director of the Europe and Latin America Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2010–2011). Having joined the United Nations in 1993, Mr. Zarif has served at Headquarters in New York as well as in political,

humanitarian and peacekeeping operations in Eritrea, Liberia (twice), South Africa, Iraq (twice) and Sudan in various capacities, including Chief of Section, Director of Division, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Chief of Staff and Acting Principal Deputy SRSG.

He has extensive experience in diplomatic, international and United Nations affairs. During his diplomatic service, he served in various positions inside and outside Afghanistan, including as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (1981–1987), Deputy Foreign Minister (1987–1989) and Presidential Adviser on International Affairs (1989–1991).

Mr. Zarif graduated from Kabul University's Faculty of Law and Political Science in 1973. After graduating with honours from the Afghan Institute of Diplomacy, he studied international relations and diplomacy at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Keywords: #Liberia #UN #Kosovo #PeaceKeeping #Eritrea #Liberia #SouthAfrica #Africa #Iraq #Sudan #Afghanistan



Fernando PETRELLA – Argentina

Ambassador Fernando Petrella joined the Argentine Foreign Service in 1965. He has been posted at the United Nations, the FAO and the OAS. He was Deputy Foreign Minister 1992-1997, Undersecretary for Foreign Relations 1991-1992 and 2002-2003.

He was Permanent Representative to the United Nations 1997-1999. He is a professor at the Argentine Diplomatic Academy, a member of the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations executive committee and directed the Master's program in International Relations at the University of Belgrano. He regularly contributes to major newspapers and is a frequent guest on different TV

programs to discuss foreign policy.

Petrella studied Law at the University of Buenos Aires and did an MPP at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University in the USA.

Keywords: #Argentina #UN #FAO #OAS #Academia #ForeignRelations #BilateralDiplomacy #Communications #MultilateralDiplomacy



Fernando SANDOVAL-FLORES – Mexico

Ambassador Sandoval Flores was a Mexican career diplomat from 1976 to 2017. He was the first resident Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Guyana as well as Permanent Representative to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) from 2009 to 2012.

He has a degree in Economics from the National Autonomous University of México (UNAM) as well as a Masters in Security and National Defense from the War School of the Colombian Ministry of National Defense. He also studied a Masters in Political Science at the Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala.

During his tours of duty abroad, he served as Charge d'Affairs in the Embassy of Mexico in Uruguay and Colombia and was Deputy Consul General in the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, California. He was also posted as member of the embassies of Mexico in Brazil, Guatemala, Venezuela, Greece and Paraguay.

In the Mexican Foreign Ministry, he served as Director of Economic Relations with South America; Director of International Economic Affairs; Director of Multilateral Economic Relations and, also, he was advisor in the office of the Under-Secretary for North America.

Mr. Sandoval was member of Mexican delegations to multilateral Conferences on regional level, as well as in the context of the United Nations Organization on different issues. He has been professor on International affairs in several Mexican universities and has given lectures and participated in round tables about Mexican foreign policy and foreign affairs.

Keywords: #Mexico #CARICOM #Caribbean #USA #SouthAmerica #Brazil #Guatemala #Venezuela #Greece #Paraguay



Frederic GATERETSE-NGOGA – Burundi

Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga is a Burundian diplomat who is currently the senior advisor on international partnerships, the AU Border Program, and regional security mechanisms in the office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security of the African Union Commission. In 2014 he was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Burundi.

Before joining the African Union Mission to Somalia, Ambassador Ngoga was a regional manager for Africa with iJET Intelligence Risks, a US based provider of operational risk management solutions. He also worked as an Africa security analyst for TranSecur and for Solutions for Progress Inc in Philadelphia, where he assisted in the research for the book *Raise the Floor – Wages and Policies That Work for All of Us*, by Holly Sklar and Laryssa Mykyta.

From 2009 to 2014 he served as a senior officer with the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) where he assisted operational teams from the Military, Civilian and Police components to provide support on Counter Terrorism and in the planning of military operations in line with AMISOM's mandate. From 2014 to 2021 he was the head of the conflict prevention and early warning division in the Peace and Security Department. The Division included the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise and the AU Border Program. He worked to enhance the AU's ability to do Early Warning, assisted Member States to address structural vulnerabilities. He worked on better equipping preventive diplomats and assisted to strengthen national capabilities to respond to prevent violent conflicts. During his tenure a strong emphasis was put on building stronger partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations in the area of conflict prevention.

With a strong interest in Institutional capacity, governance, regional and international partnerships, counter terrorism, climate peace and security, he has also worked on the crises in Libya, Sahel, Central African Republic and the Horn of Africa. In 2019 he was part of the secretariat that worked on the CAR Global Agreement for Peace and National Reconciliation signed on 6 February in Khartoum, Sudan. He is a board member of the UNDP Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa project, board Member of UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC), member of the steering Committee of the Bilalo Byetu "our bridges" project of the UNDP/EIMan Center. He is also a board Member of Med-or-Foundation and a member of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace.

Keywords: #Burundi #Sudan #Africa #Libya #Sahel #CentralAfricanRepublic #UNDP #UN #AU #Peacekeeping #Security



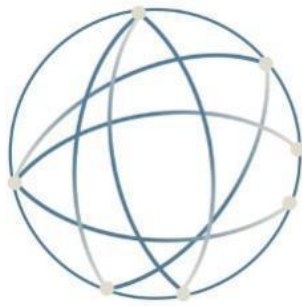
Gail MATHURIN – Jamaica

Ambassador Gail M. Mathurin recently retired as Director General of the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, a post she held between September 2009 and December 2021. She was also a member of the Executive Management team of the Secretariat. The OTN is responsible for assisting Member States in coordinating and managing CARICOM's external bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations and implementing existing trade agreements with third countries as well as those under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Prior to her appointment at the CARICOM Secretariat, Ambassador Mathurin was Permanent Secretary, and Head of the Foreign Service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign

Trade of Jamaica.

Ambassador Mathurin joined the Jamaican Foreign Service in 1979 and during her career, undertook several key diplomatic assignments. These included Permanent Representative to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in Geneva, and the WTO where she was also Coordinator of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group in the WTO Doha Negotiations, Geneva, and concurrently non-resident Ambassador to Austria, Greece, Egypt, Italy and High Commissioner to Cyprus. Other assignments included: Senior Director and later Under Secretary Trade Division and Ambassador for External Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Jamaica, and concurrently non-resident Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Uruguay. She also served as High Commissioner of Jamaica to the United Kingdom and concurrently non-resident Ambassador to Portugal, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Spain. Other overseas assignments included Brussels, New York, Trinidad & Tobago and Washington D.C.

Keywords: #CARICOM #WTO #Trade #Multilateral #Jamaica #Brazil #Argentina #SouthAmerica #Uruguay #EU #Austria #Greece #Egypt #Italy #Cyprus #UK #Portugal #Norway #Finland #Denmark #Sweden #Spain #Europe



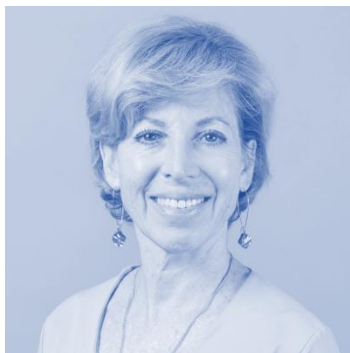
Gautam MUKHOPADHAYA – India

Ambassador Mukhopadhyaya did his schooling in Patna, Bihar, and graduation and post-graduation in History and Sociology in Delhi University, before qualifying to join the elite Indian Foreign Service in 1980. During the course of his career, he served in Indian Embassies in Mexico, France, Cuba, the Permanent Mission of India, New York, and Ministry of External Affairs, India, in various capacities, as well as in the Ministries of Culture and Defence of India (where he served for three years as JS (PIC) dealing with policy planning and international defence relations). He is also an alumnus of the 41st course of the National Defence College of India, (NDC), 2001. In addition, he served at the United Nations HQ, New York as a Consultant on Social Development

in the follow up for the World Summit on Social Development, and as a Visiting Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC, where he worked on Afghanistan.

His career highlights include the re-opening of the Indian Embassy in Kabul in November 2001 after the ouster of the Taliban, and 3-year tenures as India's Ambassador to Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar, before retiring from service in May 2016. He has since been associated with policy advisory bodies such the NITI Forum for the North East and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) where he headed a Task Force on Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. He is currently associated with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, where he is a Senior Visiting Fellow. Of late he has taken up a community farming and afforestation project in Manipur.

Keywords: #Industry #Policy #SocialDevelopment #Peace #India #Asia #Mexico #France #Cuba #Europe #LatinAmerica #Afghanistan #Syria #Myanmar #Cambodia #Laos #Vietnam #SouthEastAsia #UN



Gay ROSENBLUM-KUMAR – United States of America

Gay Rosenblum-Kumar is a peacebuilding practitioner with 25 years of experience in designing and managing conflict prevention and peacebuilding projects with the United Nations and international NGOs. In the early 2000's, Ms. Rosenblum-Kumar co-founded the UN's DPPA/UNDP Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention that established a specialised cadre of peace and development advisors (PDAs) who are deployed to UN teams in conflict-affected countries. She managed and expanded the programme for a decade. Prior to that, she managed anti-apartheid capacity-building projects for refugees and exiles from southern Africa.

As an independent consultant, Ms. Rosenblum-Kumar has worked as a PDA and undertaken evaluations and re-designs of UN peacebuilding projects. Currently, she is the UN Representative for two INGOs: Nonviolent Peaceforce, which deploys unarmed civilian protection teams in conflict-affected countries, and Peace Direct which strengthens and advocates for local peacebuilding partners working to mitigate violence and conflict in 12 countries. She is also on the board of the New York Peace Institute and the Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF) in Iraq.

Keywords: #PeaceBuilding #ConflictPrevention #SouthAfrica #Iraq #UNDP #DPPA #UN #Decolonisation #Localisation #unarmedcivilianprotection #UCP #CommunityAction #LocalAgency

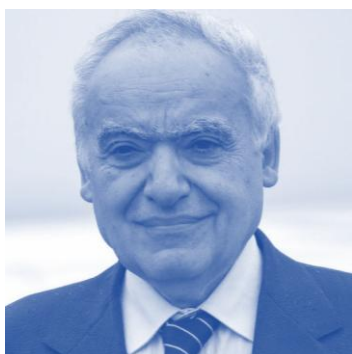


Gene CRETZ – United States of America

Gene Cretz served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kabul, Afghanistan (1975-77) before joining the Foreign Service in March 1981. His first tour was as a general services officer and consular officer at the United States Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan (1982-84), followed by a year in the Operations Center and one year as NEA staff assistant.

From 1986-88, he was a political officer in Damascus, Syria, followed by a tour as political officer in New Delhi, India (1988-91). After India, Cretz served in Tel Aviv (1991-94) where he was responsible for the Arab affairs portfolio, including the Gaza Strip. He then returned to Washington in IO/UNP as the officer responsible for Middle East Affairs at the UN. From 1998-01, he served in Beijing, China, where he was in charge of China's External Affairs portfolio. In 2001, he transferred to Cairo, Egypt where he served as Minister-Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs. He returned to Damascus in August 2003 and served as Charge d'Affaires until January 2004 before assuming duties as Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM). In August 2004, he took up duties as the DCM in Tel Aviv. On July 11, 2007, President Bush nominated Cretz to be the United States Ambassador to Libya and he was confirmed by the Senate on November 20, 2008. After serving in Tripoli (2008-2012), Cretz served as Ambassador to Ghana (2012-2015). From August 2015-December 2019, he was the representative of the Director General of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Tel Aviv. He currently serves as Senior Advisor for social impact programs for Hamilton Advisors.

Keywords: #Afghanistan #Pakistan #Israel #India #SouthAsia #MiddleEast #Gaza #China #Egypt #Libya #Ghana #Africa #NorthAfrica



Ghassan SALAMÉ – Lebanon

Ghassan Salamé is Professor of International Relations Emeritus at Sciences Po Paris and the founding dean of its Paris School for International Affairs (2010-2015). He served as Minister of Culture in the Lebanese Government (2000-2003), was the UNSG Kofi Annan's Senior Advisor (2003-2007), and served as member of the Annan Rakhine State Commission (2016-2017). His most recent assignment was as the United Nations Secretary-General Special Representative in Libya (2017-2020). He serves on the board of a number of international NGOs and is the author/editor of a dozen books. He is fluent in Arabic, French and English.

Keywords: #InternationalRelations #Lebanon #UNSG #UN #Libya #Arab #Multilateral #Advisory



Giovanna DI COLA – Italy

A citizen of Italy, Giovanni Di Cola studied in Rome and Paris, earning a four-year bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Rome La Sapienza, a master's degree (DEA) from Sciences Po Paris in Soviet Studies, and a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Paris X (Ouest).

Giovanni has a wide experience within the United Nations System, having served in four UN agencies (UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and ILO) with assignments at the UN Staff College and at the UN Secretariat under Kofi Annan as UNSG. His field experience started in Senegal at the UNESCO-BREDA regional office for sub-Saharan Africa as Assistant to the Regional Director (1983-1985), under a period of important changes in the national execution technical cooperation and with Makhtar M'Bow as UNESCO Director General. He became Consultant for UNFPA in West Africa (Senegal) dealing with a book on Population Education co-edited by the most respected demographers and political figures of West Africa during 9 months between 1985 and 1986. Between 1986 and 1988 he was then appointed as UNICEF Communication and Information officer in Niamey (Niger) dealing with emergency programme, negotiating nutrition and vaccination programmes with religious and civil authorities alike. As Associate Expert at the ILO HQS, between 1988 and 1990, in Geneva he managed labour intensive programmes, working closely with UNDP and WFP, in lusophone countries of Africa.

Giovanni returned to Dakar as ILO Programming Officer covering operational activities of 11 countries of West Africa between 1990 and 1994. He strengthened ties with social partners and focused on a country that underwent civil war(s) and would become the subject of his thesis related to Guinea Bissau (macro policies and poverty reduction strategies). He was then transferred to the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima (Peru) as Chief regional programming from 1994 to 1998 during the "toma" of the Japanese Embassy under President Fujimori regime. From 1998 to 2001 he was senior relations officer at the ILO HQS dealing with the Governing Body reports on technical cooperation, relations with Donors (Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece) and desk officer to the regional office for Middle East. As Desk Officer of the ILO Regional Office for Middle East, he would take part in three successive ILO Director General missions to the 'Arab Occupied Territories' reporting back to the International Labour Conference, between 2003 and 2005. The mission met with both Israelis and Palestinians officials including former President of the PLO Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, and Mohamed Staye, Head of the Planning Institute of the NPA and the Prime Minister. The report of 2004, prepared under the most tense period of the second Intifada provided a basis for dialogues and peace talks over working conditions and employment of Palestinian workers.

In 2001 Giovanni was also appointed UNDAF Focal Point fostering cooperation and leadership of the UNCTs to implement the UN reform. He fulfilled missions to Tajikistan, Irak, Eritrea (crisis and humanitarian situations) and Albania, Cape Verde, Cameroun, Senegal, and Peru for development cooperation frameworks. He underwent a training for mediation and conflict resolution which helped setting up an office of the Ombudsman at the ILO and served as facilitator since. For his role as negotiator within the UNDAF and with several high-level missions undertaken at the request of the UN Staff College.

Giovanni dealt for the UN Secretariat in New York to youth leaderships, as he worked closely with the UN Special Adviser Office on sport, development and peace, by former President of the Swiss Confederation. In 2001 he led a negotiation with the Italian Government that resulted in a major (13 million USD) interagency and interregional programme on local economic development in Central America, the Balkans and Southern Africa. He contributed to establish a network of 150 universities, on local economic development, and various masters on: (a) labour diplomacy with West Indies University (Trinidad and Tobago), (b) skills development through sport with Kennesaw State University (USA) and Lille University (France), (c) disaster management and prevention with Ancona (Italy) and Sri Lanka Universities, and (d) industrial and labour relations with Cornell University (USA). Between 2003 and 2009 as ILO focal point for sport, development and peace, an initiative by the late UNSG Kofi Annan entrusted to a former President of the Swiss Confederation Mr Adolf Ogi, he travelled the world and connected with UNRCs and high levels national stakeholders throughout.

In 2009 he was appointed Deputy Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean and in 2013 he was appointed Director of the same Office until 2015. In the ILO Caribbean Office, he established a permanent Labour Minister's Forum of 22 Caribbean countries and Territories. He reinforced the partnerships with the Caribbean region (CARICOM), with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and with the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). He was ILO representative to the Samoa UN Summit on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in September 2014 and to the ACS Head of States Summit in Merida (Mexico) in April 2014. In 2015, he was appointed Special Adviser to the Deputy Director General for Field Operations and Partnerships at the ILO in Geneva dealing with UN reform, Sustainable Development Goals, global partnerships, and Mega Sporting Events and human and labour rights. He was also attached to the Commission of the ILC on The Future of Work adopted in June 2019. In 2020, he was ILO lead expert of the Global Forum on Decent Work in the world of sport, which adopted the Points of Consensus setting the ILO agenda in the world of sport.

Since 2023, Giovanni is CEO of a consultancy company using skills to achieve sustainability and providing advice to national policies and programmes on labour, employment and international labour standards, using dialogues to achieve policy outcomes. He is also consulting on humanitarian/crisis and business resilience. He lectures on the importance of geopolitics in today's business frameworks and sustainability including sport and human rights.

Keywords: #Italy #Senegal # UNESCO-BREDA #UNICEF #UCTC #ILO #Central America #Africa #Guinea Bissau #Sports #Consulting



Hesham YOUSSEF – Egypt

Hesham Youssef was a career diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, having joined in 1985. He was posted to the Egyptian Embassy in Canada in 1988 and the Egyptian Mission in Geneva where he focused on economic and trade issues in the UN and WTO from 1995 to 1999. He was also a member of the Cabinet of the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs in the periods of 1992 to 1995 and 1999 to 2001. He then served as a senior official in the Arab League from 2001 to 2014 and as Official Spokesman and later the Chief of Staff to Secretary General Amr Moussa in 2003. He then became the Senior Advisor to the Secretary General of the Arab League on issues pertaining to crisis management as well as the reform of the Arab League in

2012. From 2014 to 2019, he served as Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Youssef has worked extensively on conflict resolution in the Middle East and in particular the Arab Israeli conflict, reconciliation in Iraq and the situation in Sudan. He has also written several papers on reform in the Arab world and focused in the last five years on fragility and the humanitarian situation in the Islamic world.

Keywords: #ArabLeague #Egypt #Canada #NorthAfrica #ConflictResolution #MiddleEast #Israel #Iraq #Sudan



Huseyin BOTSALI – Turkey

Ambassador Botsali has held a variety of senior diplomatic positions, including his last few as Ambassador to Cairo (2009-2013), Turkey's Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris in (2014-2016), Vice President of Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and Advisor to the MFA (2016-2018), OIC Secretary General's Envoy and Permanent Representative of the OIC in Afghanistan (2018-2020).

First appointed to Afghanistan as First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Kabul (1988-1991), Botsali later joined the UN International Staff field team as Senior Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan & Pakistan (UNGOMAP, 1991- 1992). He was designated as

Secretary General's liaison officer with mujahedeen leaders and the Interim Government in Peshawar/Pakistan and later also with GOA-in Kabul, contributing to peace-building talks; subsequently he served as the Head of the Office of the UN Secretary General for Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) in Kabul (1992-93).

Mr. Botsali was appointed by the MFA Turkey as Deputy Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organisation in Tehran, enlarged to include Afghanistan and the CARs (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghyza, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan, 1993-1996). During this period, he presided over ECO's Transportation, Trade and Customs, Energy, Health, Environment, Culture and Narcotics Control Committees. He also attended 49th and 50th UN General Assembly sessions, IBRD, IMF, UNCTAD General Assembly sessions, as ECO Observer, and led the ECO Delegation to the EU Commission in Brussels. He returned to Ankara as Head of Department for Middle East and Gulf Affairs, MFA (1996-1998), then was appointed Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C. (1998-2001).

In 2001 he became Turkey's Consul General in Komotini, Greece and returned to Ankara to head the Middle East and Gulf Affairs Department for the second time (2004-2005). He was then promoted to Consul General of First Grade to reactivate the Turkish Consulate General in Mosul, Iraq. Throughout his stay in Iraq, Ambassador Botsali organised relief and humanitarian aid operations, including over 20 medical-emergency evacuations, saving hundreds of victims of terrorist attacks targeting civilian communities in Mosul, Telafar, Arbil, Kirkuk, and Suleimaniyah.

Following his retirement from Turkish Foreign Service and OIC, Ambassador Botsali has been invited as speaker or panellist to a number of peace-building and conflict-prevention fora. Recently he joined a private Turkish corporate entrepreneurship, specialised in infrastructure and renewable energy investments, as Government Relations coordinator. Ambassador Botsali speaks English and French. He also communicates in German, Portuguese, Dari and Persian - only spoken.

Keywords: #Turkey #Egypt #Pakistan #Greece #Afghanistan #Iraq # CentralAsia #MiddleEast #Gulf #EU #Security #PeaceBuilding #UN #UNGA #UNESCO #OSGAP #UNGOMAP #ForeignAffairs #MFA



Itonde KAKOMA – United States of America

Itonde A. Kakoma currently serves as the Permanent Representative of the IFRC to the African Union. He also serves as a member of the Leadership Team and Director for Global Strategy at CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Centre. Kakoma joined CMI in 2014, initially serving as Head for Sub-Saharan Africa before being promoted as Programme Director responsible for Africa (Sub-Saharan, Sahel, North Africa and The Red Sea). Prior to CMI, Kakoma was the Assistant Director, Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center, managing a portfolio of the Center's peace initiatives and supporting President Carter's diplomatic efforts in and between Sudan and South Sudan. He was an international observer for The National Referendum on the Right to Self

Determination for the People of South Sudan in 2011; and served as an advisor and report writer for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, specifically on the role of traditional and religious communities during the civil war and in peacemaking.

Kakoma is an experienced facilitator of and advisor for high-level political and security dialogue fora; and has expertise in negotiation, peace process design, transitional justice, and an advocate for gender and inclusion. Kakoma is a frequent moderator for both closed-door and public platforms on matters of global peace and security and is currently an Executive-in-Residence within the GCSP Global Fellowship Initiative.

Keywords: #Africa #Security #PeaceNegotiation #Gender #GCSP #Sudan #SouthSudan #AfricanUnion #IFRC



Janan MOSAZAI – Afghanistan

Born in 1980 in Kabul, Janan Mosazai is a former Afghan diplomat who left government service in 2018. He is Co-Founder and Vice President of the Heart of Asia Society; an Afghan think tank based in Kabul. Janan Mosazai was ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the People's Republic of China (with concurrent non-resident accreditation to Mongolia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) from 2016–2018 and to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 2014 to 2016. Prior to his ambassadorial postings, Janan Mosazai served as Spokesman and Director General of Communications at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in Kabul.

For several years prior to that, Ambassador Mosazai served as a freelance journalist and civil society activist based in Kabul. Janan Mosazai was a researcher and producer with BBC World TV for a year before and after the tumultuous events that followed the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the U.S. in both Pakistan and Afghanistan (2001-2002). He also worked with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) focusing mainly on political affairs and human rights issues (2002-2005).

Ambassador Mosazai studied medicine at Kabul Medical University and international relations at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He holds a Master of Journalism (MJ) degree from the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. He is fluent in Pashto, Dari and English, and has basic to moderate knowledge of Urdu, Russian, French, Arabic, and German.

Keywords: #Afghanistan #China #Mongolia #EastAsia #Vietnam #Pakistan #CentralAsia #Journalism #Media #UNAMA #UN #USA



Jean-François CAUTAIN – France

Jean-François Cautain has extensive work experience in the field of international relations. His main areas of expertise include: political analysis and dialogue, post-conflict situations, and international cooperation and assistance to developing countries.

Jean-François Cautain was Director of International NGOs for more than 16 years, both at headquarters and in the field, before joining the European Union. He worked in Afghanistan and Pakistan for 15 years. He travelled to Afghanistan several times between 1986 and 1992, and was based in Jalalabad from 1994 to 1999. In 2001, he joined the European Commission Technical Office in Peshawar, in charge of operations in Afghanistan, and moved to Kabul in the newly established European Commission Delegation to Afghanistan in 2002. In 2003, he became the Head of Cooperation of the European Commission in Afghanistan, till 2005.

Cautain was then appointed Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the European Commission Delegation to Thailand, from 2005 to 2009. He was in charge of the policy dialogue with the Government of Thailand and with different stakeholders in Myanmar. After the ratification of the EU Lisbon Treaty, in 2010 and 2011, Jean-François Cautain actively contributed to the establishment of the new European External Action Service where he was appointed as Team Leader in the Policy Coordination Division in Brussels. In November 2011, he became the first resident European Union Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia. In October 2014, he became the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Cambodia. From September 2015 to August 2019, he was European Union Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. From September 2019 to his retirement in April 2022 he was advising the Director of the Integrated Approach for Security and Peace directorate in the European External Action Service. In this capacity, he went to Afghanistan Doha talks to meet the two Afghan negotiating teams in March 2021.

Since May 2022, he lives in Kabul supporting inter alia Europe and US-based advocacy organisations working on the roots causes of the current economic / humanitarian crisis and organisations involved in peace-building.

Cautain holds a Master in Development Management from the London School of Economics (2000), and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (1983).

Keywords: #France #Afghanistan #Pakistan #EU #Myanmar #Thailand #SouthAsia #SEAsia #Management #InternationalRelations #PoliticalDialogue #PostConflictManagement #InternationalCooperation #BilateralRelations



Jigmi THINLEY – Bhutan

Jigmi Y. Thinley, born 9 Sept 1952, was Bhutan's first democratically elected Prime Minister (2008–2013). He also served twice as Prime Minister in the pre-democracy government (1998-1999 and 2003-2004). He is the foremost advocate of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and its index of nine domains for holistic societal growth and wellbeing that has inspired global interest and search for an alternative development paradigm. He is a senior advisor to the World Happiness Report 2022.

As foreign minister, he led several rounds of the Bhutan-Nepal talks in the search for a dignified and durable solution to the protracted problem of the displaced people (over 100,000) in the refugee camps in Nepal. In the process, he developed a cooperative spirit between the two countries which had otherwise become mutually suspicious and hostile. Ultimately, he initiated a discreet dialogue with several western nations including the USA, which received and resettled all the concerned people within a few years. He also led the Bhutanese delegation at the highly sensitive Bhutan-China border negotiations at which the first-ever bilateral agreement with China was signed. In it, China, for the first time, acknowledged and affirms its respect for Bhutan's sovereignty.

One of Thinley's diplomatic successes was to broaden and elevate Bhutan's hitherto donor-recipient bilateral relationship with several European countries as well as the EU by engaging in periodical policy dialogue on a

range of topics of mutual concern including international security. This significantly enhanced Bhutan's image and role in the international community.

As a member of the Club de Madrid (CdM), Mr. Thinley co-led two delegations to Myanmar as a part of the Club's project to promote peaceful reconciliation among various parties in conflict and to promote democracy. His last visit was just before the first democratic elections that led to the establishment of Aung San Suu Kyi's full-term government. As a member of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), he has and will continue to encourage the ASEAN nations to continue with prevailing bilateral cooperative engagements with China and to explore new areas of cooperation while pursuing diplomatic options toward mutually beneficial and durable solutions.

Keywords: #Bhutan #Myanmar #Happiness #APRC #ASEAN #China #Nepal #ClubDeMadrid #Negotiation #Leadership



Joanne SANDLER – United States of America

Joanne Sandler has been a leading advocate for gender justice and women's rights for the past 40 years, working with multilateral and bilateral organisations, national and transnational NGOs, consulting networks and academic institutions worldwide. She was a member of the transition team that guided the formation of UN Women (2010/11), served as the Deputy Executive Director for the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) from 2001 to 2010 and as Chief of Organisational Learning and Resource Development for UNIFEM (1998 to 2001). Joanne has consulted for a wide range of UN organisations, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNGEI, UNFPA, ILO and DPPA-DPO, UN University, UN Women and has provided advice on updating gender

equality strategies/guidance to the OECD-DAC.

Joanne is currently a Senior Associate with the global network, Gender at Work, supporting a diverse range of organizations to build cultures of equality, including the Global Fund for Women, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the C&A Foundation. She was the co-chair of the Board of Just Associates (JASS/ 2017 to 2022) and, currently serves on the global Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) for UN Women.

Joanne has authored numerous articles and books focused on gender equality and organisational change including: *Gender at Work: Theory and Practice for 21st Century Organizations* (co-author, published by Routledge, 2016); *Collective Power for Gender Equality: An Unfinished Agenda for the UN* (article + podcast for UN University, 2022); *Can the United Nations Deliver a Feminist Future?* (Gender & Development, 2020); and *The Warriors Within: How Feminists Change Bureaucracies and Bureaucracies Change Feminists* (Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements, 2015). She co-hosts two podcasts: *The Gender at Work* podcast, focused on gender justice and organisational change and *Two Old Bitches*, featuring conversations with women who are disrupting what it means to be 'old'.

Keywords: #UN #UNIFEM #Equality #Gender #Women #UNWomen #USA #UNICEF #UNGEI #UNFPA #ILO #DPPADPO #Communication



João HONWANA – Mozambique

João Honwana is an independent consultant on Peace and Security, Conflict Resolution, International Mediation and Peacebuilding. He serves as a Senior Adviser to the Mediation Program at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, and as a Senior Associate of The Interpeace Peacebuilding Advisory Team. Honwana was the 2017 Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair at Seaton Hall University, New Jersey, and served as Senior Resource Person in the UN High Level Mediation Course, 2017-2020.

Honwana is a retired senior official of the UN, having served as Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch at the Department of Disarmament Affairs (2000-2004); Secretary-General of the first UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001); Representative of the UN Secretary General in Guinea Bissau (2004-2006); Director of the Africa Divisions 1 &

2 in the Department of Political Affairs (2007-2016); Chief of Staff of UNMIS in Sudan (2007); Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Malawi (2011); and Head of the UN Office in Mali (2012).

Prior to joining the UN, Honwana had an active career within Mozambique's security forces and politics. At independence, he was seconded to the police force as Provincial Police Commander in Zambézia (1975-1976); he was later trained as a Fighter Pilot and Airforce Tactical Commander in the former Soviet Union (1976-1979, 1982-1983). Honwana was the Commander of the Air Force and Member of Parliament in his home country Mozambique (1986-1993). After retiring from the Air Force in 1993, Honwana served as Senior Adviser on Regional Politics & Security to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique.

Honwana is an accomplished researcher and analyst. He is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS/1990), UK, and holds a Masters' Degree in War Studies from Kings College, London (1992). He has written extensively on civil-military relations, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, regional security, and political mediation. He was a Senior Researcher and Project Coordinator at the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town in South Africa (1993-2000), where he contributed to the design and delivery of Conflict Resolution and Mediation Courses to senior officials in the SADC countries and engaged in mediation exercises in Burundi, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe.

Throughout his UN career, Honwana has been involved in mediation, preventive diplomacy, and peacebuilding exercises in Guinea Bissau, Somalia, Madagascar, Malawi, Burundi, Kenya and Mali. He was also part of the United Nations team in the Havana talks between the Colombian government and the FARC (2015). Honwana was the Chief of Staff of Kofi Annan, in his capacity as the Special Envoy of the African Union to the Kenyan electoral conflict in early 2008.

Keywords: #UN #Peace #Security #Peacebuilding #Mediation #UNSG #UNMIS #Africa #Mozambique #Sudan #Malawi #Mali #GuineaBissau #Russia #UK

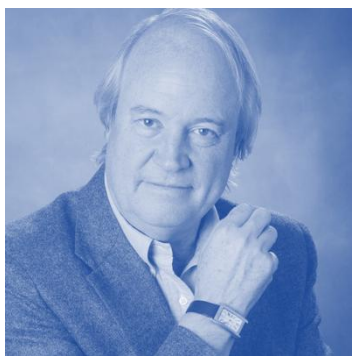


Jordan RYAN – United States of America

Jordan Ryan currently serves as senior counsel for social impact programs with Hamilton Advisors Inc and as senior consultant for the United Nations Integration Review. Mr. Ryan recently retired from The Carter Center where he had served as the Vice President for peace programs since 2015. He also served as an Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations as well as an Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) until his retirement at the end of September 2014.

Mr. Ryan's long career in the UN included postings as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Recovery and Governance) and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia (2006-2009). From 2001 to 2005, he was the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Vietnam. Prior to that assignment, Mr. Ryan served as Deputy Director, and then Director of the office of the UNDP administrator in New York. He began his UN career as UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in China. Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Ryan worked as an international legal consultant in China and Saudi Arabia as well as an attorney in California, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Keywords: #UN #UNDP #BCPR #Vietnam #China #SaudiArabia #USA #CrisisPrevention



Jorge HEINE – Chile

Jorge Heine is a research professor at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, and a Wilson Center global fellow. He served previously as ambassador of Chile to China from 2014-2017, as well as ambassador to India (2003-2007) and to South Africa (1994-1999). He has also been a cabinet minister in the Chilean government. A past VP of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), he was CIGI Professor of Global Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University from 2007-2017, and a distinguished fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation from 2007-2014.

He has held visiting appointments at the universities of Konstanz, Oxford, Paris and Tsinghua and has published sixteen books, including *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy* (Oxford University Press, 2013, 2015). His latest book (co-edited with Carlos Fortin and Carlos Ominami) is *El No Alineamiento Activo y América Latina : Una doctrina para el nuevo siglo* (Catalonia, 2021), whose English edition will be published by Anthem in London later this year with the title *Latin American Foreign Policies in the New World Order : The Active Non-Alignment Option*. He holds a law degree from the University of Chile and a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University.

Keywords: #Chile #China #India #SouthAfrica #PoliticalScience #IPSA #Academia #Law



Jose Luis BERNAL RODRIGUEZ – Mexico

Ambassador Bernal is currently the Coordinator of China Studies in the Mexican Council of Foreign Affairs, COMEXI, the most prestigious think-tank in Mexico. He holds ample experience in Bilateral Relations, Economic Diplomacy, Multilateral Economic and Social Matters and Consular Practice. He retired from Mexico's Foreign Service in early 2022, after 42 years of uninterrupted activity. He was Ambassador of Mexico to the People's Republic of China, 2017-2021; the Republic of Korea, the DPRK and Mongolia, 2013-2017; the Czech Republic, 2007-2013; Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 2002-2007; Consul General in Los Angeles, California, 1999-2001; and Deputy Representative to the OECD, 1996-1999. In the OECD, he was elected as Vice

Chairman of the Committee for Territorial Development, 1999-2001.

Before being appointed as Ambassador, Mr. Bernal was posted at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 1985 to 1993, accredited subsequently as First Secretary, Counselor and Minister. In Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bernal occupied several positions in the areas of International Economic Relations, North American Affairs, Multilateral Organizations and Human Resources Administration.

Born in Mexicali, Baja California, in 1956, Jose Luis Bernal graduated SCL on International Relations from the National University of Mexico, UNAM, and completed the master's studies on Economics in the Center for Research and Teaching on Economics, CIDE/Mexico. Mr. Bernal has published extensively on economic diplomacy, the Mexican economy, North American economic relations, social development, and other international matters. He has been a professor and lecturer in Mexico's National University, UCLA, the Mexican Diplomatic Academy and Prague's University of Economics, among other institutions.

He speaks Spanish (native), English (fluent) and French (moderate).

Keywords: #Mexico #NorthAmerica #China #Korea #Mongolia #DPRK #Asia #EastAsia #Europe #Liechtenstein #Switzerland #CzechRepublic #USA #OECD #economics #economicdiplomacy #multilateraldiplomacy #socialdevelopment #training



Karel DE BEER – Netherlands

Karel de Beer served in the Netherlands Foreign Service for over 35 years in cities including Tel Aviv, Los Angeles and Nairobi, before becoming the Head of the Multilateral Development Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He then served as the Minister Plenipotentiary in New Delhi, the Netherlands Ambassador to Zambia, the Deputy Secretary General at the Ministry from 2000-2005, and the Netherlands Ambassador to Canada from 2005-2008. De Beer then became the Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2011-2012, he also served as an Ambassador-Chairman of the International Taskforce on the Holocaust.

Since his retirement, he has been active as an adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on various conferences including The Nuclear Security Conference amongst others. He also headed the Review Team that looked into the internal crisis response of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the MH17 Air Disaster. Since 2010, he has also been a Director at CPDS: The Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies (CPDS) and in this capacity, he teaches at various diplomatic institutions and at Ministries – among others: Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union, the College of Europe, Switzerland, and EU Missions to Serbia and Kosovo.

Keywords: #organisationandmanagement #bilateral diplomacy #multilateral diplomacy #negotiations #Africa #training #Israel #USA #Nairobi #India #Zambia #Canada #CPDS



Kees RADE – Netherlands

Kees Rade was most recently the Dutch Ambassador to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Mr. Rade joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979 and worked at the European Integration Department, the International Organisations Department, the Policy Preparation Division of the Directorate General for International Co-operation and at the Dutch Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. From 1993 to 1996, he then served as the Head of the Surinam Section of the Development Co-operation Department and later as the Head of the Surinam Division of the Western Hemisphere Department. In 1997, he then became the Deputy Head of Mission of the Dutch Embassy in Nairobi and later the Chargé d’Affaires in Nicaragua before becoming the Ambassador. He then

moved back to the Hague to head the Multilateral Department at the Ministry. He then served as the Ambassador in Brasilia in 2009 and later as the Director of the Inclusive Green Growth Department. In 2017, he served as Chargé d’Affaires in Paramaribo before taking up his last post.

Keywords: #Kenya #Suriname #Nicaragua #Brazil #Environment #Thailand #Laos #Cambodia #SoutheastAsia #LatinAmerica #UN #Climate



Kerstin LEITNER – Germany

After her graduation with a Ph.D. in political science at the Freie Universität, Berlin/Germany, Ms. Leitner worked for the UN system for 30 years. Her career with UNDP took her to four global regions (Africa, Asia, Arab States and Europe). In Malawi and China, she served as UN Resident Coordinator. During 28 years with UNDP, she spent years in country offices and at headquarters, mostly in programme management, but also in internal management, where she was responsible among others for the introduction of digital communication technologies and information management systems in UNDP.

Two years with WHO in Geneva as Assistant Director General in charge of Health and Environment rounded out her professional experience in a global public sector organisation dealing with issues that transcend the responsibility of national governments and require well-coordinated multilateral cooperation (such as pandemics, the management of chemicals and other environmental threats to human health).

She taught for a number of years at her alma mater and at the University of Potsdam on global public policies, and has settled in Berlin, Germany. Memoirs of Ms. Leitner’s 30 years with the UN have been published under the title *When only the Sky is the Limit*; or *Als Moderne Nomadin um die Welt* in German.

Keywords: #Germany #Environment #Health #WHO #UNDP #Africa #Asia #Europe #ArabStates #Multilateral



Maged ABDELAZIZ – Egypt

Maged Abdelaziz is a seasoned Egyptian diplomat, who started his diplomatic career representing Egypt to the United Nations, beginning a long career in multilateral diplomacy that has so far included more than 32 years of work with and within the United Nations in New York. He served as Delegate (1983-1987), Minister & Deputy Permanent Representative (1995 to 1999), and as Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2005-2012). He also served as the Political Advisor to and Spokesperson of the late President Mubarak of Egypt (1999-2005), and as Under-Secretary-General of United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon in charge of Africa (2012-2017). He retired from government service in 2014 and since 2017 has been

serving as the Ambassador of the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States (LAS) to the United Nations in New York.

Over a long career serving his government, the UN and LAS, Ambassador Abdelaziz occupied multiple leadership positions across different specialisations. On development, he was a member of the Bureau of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development; contributed extensively in the adoption of both the UN Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063; co-chaired the 2008 UN Review Conference on Financing for Development; Rapporteur of the 2009 UN Conference on the Economic and Financial Crisis and Its impact on Development; and served as the Vice President of the UN Economic and Social Council (2011-2012).

On peace and security, he was a member of the Egyptian delegation to the Security Council (1984 & 1985); the Political Coordinator of the delegation in the Security Council for a second term (1996 & 1997). As Vice President of the United Nations General Assembly (2008-2009), he represented Egypt in all NPT Review Conferences (1980-2015). Abdelaziz has chaired the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York (2009-2012), the UN Inter-Agency Taskforce in support of African development, peace & security, and head of the Egyptian delegation to NPT Rev Con (2010). He contributed extensively in shaping and reforming the Peace & Security Architectures of the UN and the AU, and in crafting the joint UN-AU framework agreements for peace, security & development in many parts of Africa.

On human rights and humanitarian issues, he took part in the establishment of the Human Rights Council, Peace Building Commission, UN-Women, UN Youth office, and the AU-APRM. He also played a leading role in the development of new concepts such as Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and Human Security, and contributed, as a lawyer, to the codification of many international law norms, treaties and conventions. Ambassador Abdelaziz graduated from Ain Shams University School of Law in 1973.

Keywords: #Africa #LAS #AU #UNWomen #AUAPRM #Law #Egypt #NY #Arab #Peace #Security #Multilateral #Bilateral #UN #Leadership



Marcia COVARRUBIAS – Chile

Marcia Covarrubias has been Ambassador of Chile to France, UNESCO, the Principality of Monaco, Algeria, the Kingdom of Morocco, Greece, and Tunisia. Covarrubias was UN Senior Counsellor during the Tunisian transition to democracy. She has founded and been elected Honorary President of the Morocco-Chile Business Council, Algerian-Chile Business Council, Greece-Latin America Business Council, and Greek-Chilean Chamber of Commerce and Culture. In addition, she has been Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Third MENA Economic Summit in Cairo, and Special Presidential Envoy to various African countries, including Mauritania, Madagascar, Djibouti, and Mauritius. At present, Covarrubias is a Member of

the CISH/UNESCO Board (Lebanon) and a Member of the Board of the Foro Permanente de Política Exterior.

Currently, Covarrubias is Professor of Feminist Foreign Policy and Chair at the Institute of International Studies, University of Chile. She is also co-coordinator of the RIMLAC Network (International Network of Latin American and Caribbean Women), and contributor to the book *Mujeres y Política Exterior en América Latina, un mundo de desigualdades* (Fondo de Cultura Económica and the Institute of International Studies, University of Chile, 2022). Covarrubias finished Law School at the University of Chile and is fluent in English, French, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic and Spanish.

Keywords: #Chile #LatinAmerica #France #UNESCO #WIPO #Monaco #Algeria #Africa #MENA #NorthAfrica #Morocco #Greece #Tunisia #Business #Women



Maria OTERO – United States of America

Maria Otero was the United States Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, and served as President Obama's Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

Otero was president and CEO of ACCION International, a global microfinance institution. As Chair of the Board of ACCION Investments, she pioneered the establishment of microfinance in twenty-five countries. Previously, Otero was an Economist for Latin America at USAID and served for five years at the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA). Otero has served on several boards of microfinance banks in Latin America and has published and spoken globally on microfinance, women's economic development and poverty alleviation. Currently, Otero is a trustee of the Kresge Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, Herbalife, Development Alternatives Inc., Oxfam America and Bancosol, a microfinance bank in Bolivia.

Keywords: #LatinAmerica #Finance #Microfinance #Bolivia #Tibet #Development



Marta RUEDAS – Spain

Marta Ruedas served in the United Nations for over 30 years, gaining extensive experience in coordinating United Nations development and humanitarian work in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as supporting peacebuilding transitions.

Marta's last position with the United Nations was as Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) as well as United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq in May 2020. Ms. Ruedas served in this position for two years, after finishing her previous tenure as United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan. Prior to that, she served as the UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan, Deputy Director of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and as United Nations Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon. Earlier in her career she served as Deputy Regional Director at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Resident Coordinator in Bulgaria and in São Tomé and Príncipe. She also served with UNDP in Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Georgia, Nepal, Mongolia and Mexico.

Since her retirement in 2020, Marta has continued to focus on the intersection of the political, humanitarian and development spheres, trying to ensure that constructive approaches are applied to the more complex problems leading to conflict. She has done so through consultancy work with the United Nations, and in her own country as Senior Advisor to the mediation-focused NGO CITpax.

Ms. Ruedas holds an MA in International Relations from Columbia University, United States.

Keywords: #Spain #Iraq #Afghanistan #Bolivia #Kyrgyzstan #Georgia #Nepal #Mongolia #Mexico #Bulgaria #SaoTomePrincipe #UNDP #Humanitarian #Peacebuilding #Development #Recovery #CrisisPrevention



Martha BARCENA-COQUI – Mexico

Ambassador Barcena joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1979 and since then she held different positions at the Foreign Ministry including Head of Department for migrant workers and border cooperation in the Directorate for North American Affairs; Deputy Director for Planning and Prospective as well as Special Advisor to the Vice-minister for European, Asian, African and Multilateral Affairs and the Director for International Development Cooperation. She has served abroad as Consul in Barcelona and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdoms of Denmark and Norway as well as to the Republic of Iceland (2004-2013) and the Republics of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and Georgia (2013-2017). From 2017 to 2018 she was the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN

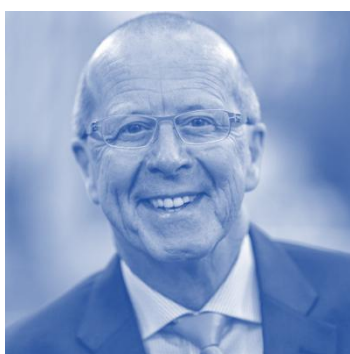
Agencies in Rome: FAO, IFAD, WFP and UNIDROIT. From 2018 to 2021 she was the first female Ambassador of Mexico to the United States.

She has also an academic profile having been associate professor on international organizations and international trade negotiations at the Iberoamerican University. At the Centre for Advanced Naval Studies (CESNAV) and the National Defence College of Mexico. She taught courses on international security, UN peacekeeping operations and US-Mexico relationship. She has published various articles in books and magazines on UN peace keeping operations, international development, intercultural communication, US-Mexico security relationships, energy, and international security.

Currently, Barcena is a member of the Board of the Adrienne Arsht Centre for Latin American Studies of the Atlantic Council and senior advisor in CSIS. She is member of the Board of Savage companies, writes a weekly column at El Heraldo de México, and participates frequently as a specialist in public diplomacy and international relations on radio and TV.

Martha Bárcena has a bachelor's degree on Communication (Iberoamerican University) as well as a Bachelor on Philosophy (Pontifical Gregorian University) and Master degree studies on Political Philosophy. She has a master's degree on International Studies by the Diplomatic School of Spain. Ambassador Barcena did several postgraduate courses at Instituto Matías Romero on international law, Interamerican System, as well as courses on US foreign policy, US National Security (Fullbright scholarship at the University of Delaware), and civic- military relationships.

Keywords: #Mexico #USA #Spain #Denmark #Norway #Iceland #Turkey #Azerbaijan #Turkmenistan #Kazakhstan #Georgia #NorthAmerica #Europe #CentralAsia #UN #FAO #IFAD #WFP #UNIDROIT #PeaceKeeping #Security #Energy #Training



Martin KOBLE – Germany

Martin Kobler is a German former career diplomat. He has an advanced law degree and is fluent in English, French, German and Indonesian. He served as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. Previously, he has served as Special Representative and Head of the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). In this capacity, he headed more than 20,000 peacekeepers in the country.

A veteran of the German Foreign Service, Kobler has held several high-ranking positions, including as Director-General for Culture and Communication in Germany's Foreign Office, and as Ambassador of Germany to Iraq, Egypt and Pakistan. He served as Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and as Special Representative of the United Nations Special Representative in Iraq (UNAMI) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). In this capacity, he aided in protecting local populations from military action. Other posts include Chief of Cabinet to former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Deputy Chief of Cabinet, and Deputy Head of the Foreign Ministry's Balkan Task Force. Prior to this, he was instrumental in implementing the German representation with the Palestinian Authority in Jericho. Additionally, he has acted as an Electoral Observer with the United Nations missions in Haiti, Nicaragua and Cambodia.

Keywords: #Germany #Iraq #Egypt #Pakistan #Congo #Libya #UN #Peacekeeping #Haiti #Nicaragua #Cambodia #Palestine #Afghanistan



Martin SAJDIK – Austria

After graduating from the Theresianum in Vienna in 1967, Martin Sajdik studied law at the University of Vienna (doctorate in 1971) and subsequently international law at the Lomonosov University in Moscow, Russia and international relations at the Johns Hopkins University in Bologna, Italy.

His diplomatic career has taken Sajdik to Belgrade, Nairobi and Geneva, and from 1991 as envoy to the Austrian Embassy in Moscow. In 1997, he was appointed head of the Department for EU Enlargement, External Economic Relations and Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. He was appointed the head of the economic and integration policy section in the Ministry for

Foreign Affairs (2003), Austrian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, North Korea and Mongolia (2007-2011), and Ambassador to the United Nations in New York (2012-2015). From 2015 to 2020, Ambassador Sajdik was the OSCE Ukraine Special Envoy. He was Head of the Moscow Representative Office of Creditanstalt-Bankverein and Managing Director of the Maculan Group in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Currently, Sajdik holds senior advisory and board positions for the Austrian Institute for European & Security Policy (AIES), Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Keywords: #Austria #Belgrade #Nairobi #Switzerland #EU #Russia #Ukraine #China #NorthKorea #Mongolia #Italy #Economics #UN #Trading



Mirosław ZASADA – Poland

After completing Spanish and Portuguese Philology Studies at the Warsaw University (1982) and also Economy of Developing Countries (post-graduate studies) at the same University (1984), he worked for the Polish Academy of Sciences, History Department and also as freelance interpreter (Polish - Spanish - English).

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in 1990, after the collapse of the Soviet-led communist system. Between 1991 and 1997 he worked as Consul in the Embassy of Poland in Madrid. After returning to Warsaw, he worked for two years in the Middle East Department and then

moved to Asian affairs - the Asia & Pacific Department that became his 'home' till the end of his career. In the years 1999 - 2003 he worked as the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Poland in New Delhi, India. In that period his responsibilities covered India and also Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. In 2003-2007 he was in charge of South Asian affairs and mainly Afghanistan that in that period was of high importance to the Polish foreign policy. In the years 2007 - 2013 he worked as Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Poland in Tokyo, Japan (2009-2010 as charge d'affaires and head of the Mission). After his return to Warsaw, he became director of the South East Asia Division, Department of Asia & Pacific. Since 2015, after short stay in the Embassy of Poland in Bangkok he worked as charge d'affaires and head of the Representative Office of Poland in Yangon Myanmar. His work there coincided with the most important period of the recent Burmese history: elections of Nov. 2015 and democratic rule of the NLD party with Daw Aung San Suu Kiy, with whom he maintained close and friendly relations. His return, or rather escape, from Yangon to Poland in July 2020 (evacuation flight of the Korea Air via Seoul) coincided with the unfortunate surge of the pandemic (Covid). After returning to the Ministry, he became director of the South Asia Division, Department of Asia & Pacific.

Due to the legislation introduced by the governing populist PIS party, he was "invited" to retire in October 2021.

Keywords: #Poland #Asia #Japan #India #SriLanka #Nepal #Bhutan #Thailand #Myanmar #SouthAsia #SoutheastAsia #Afghanistan

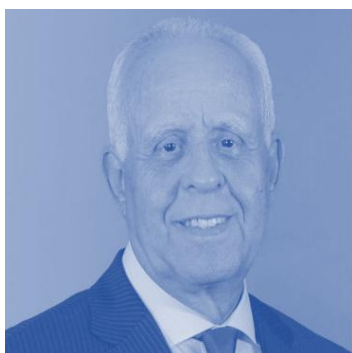


Mohamed Salia SOKONA – Mali

Retired Exceptional Class Civil Administrator, Mohamed Salia Sokona is a former Minister of Defense of Mali (1997 to 2000). He was Ambassador of Mali to Burkina Faso and Niger (2000 to 2003), then to France, Spain, Portugal, the Vatican and the Sovereign Order of Malta with residence in Paris (2003 to 2010).

At the same time, he was Permanent Ambassador Delegate of Mali to UNESCO and Representative to the The International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF). After his retirement, he contributed to efforts to restore peace in Mali as President of the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission (2013-2014) – a commission set up after the 2012 coup. Mohamed Salia was also Special Envoy of the Secretary of the IOF for the follow-up of the Political Dialogue in Guinea (2015 to 2018).

Keywords: #Africa #Mali #BurkinaFaso #Niger #France #Spain #Portugal #Malta #IOF #Francophonie #Dialogue #UNESCO



Mohammed LOULICHKI – Morocco

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco in 1974 and, since then, has served as Legal Counsel (1982-1991); Head of the Legal Department, Director-General of Multilateral Affairs and International Cooperation (2003-2006); Ambassador coordinator of relations with the MINURSO (1999-2001); and staff member and, later, Chef de Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1991-1995).

In the course of his long diplomatic career, Mr. Loulichki, who has been the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations in New York from 2008 to 2014, has held the posts of Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (2006-2008), Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2001-2003) and Ambassador to Hungary, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-1999).

Ambassador Loulichki has also served as Vice-Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the “Counter-Terrorism Committee”) (2012), Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (2012) and Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau.

As a member of the Human Rights Council, Mr. Loulichki has served as facilitator of the review process of the status of the Human Rights Council (2010-2011); facilitator on the question of the relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008); facilitator on the general guidelines for the preparation of national reports under the universal periodic review (2007); facilitator of the Council’s Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (2006-2007); and Vice-President of the Council (2006-2007).

Mr. Loulichki has also served as Chair of the Moroccan National Monitoring Committee for Nuclear Issues (2003-2006); Deputy Coordinator of the Group of 77 and China in New York (2003); and Coordinator of the Group of African States at the International Telecommunication Union (2008).

Keywords: #Morocco #Hungary #Croatia #BosniaHerzegovina #UN #CounterTerrorism #Peacekeeping #GuineaBissau #HumanRightsCouncil #HumanRights



Moustapha SOUMARÉ – Mali

Moustapha Soumaré retired from the United Nations with more than 40 years of extensive experience in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, development, and leadership. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Peace Operation Training Institute (POTI).

From 2015 to 2020 he served as the Deputy Special Representative (Political) for the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). From 2012 to 2015 he was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Prior to that, he served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) from 2009 to 2012. He served as Deputy Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Deputy Regional Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa in New York from 2007 to 2009. He was UN Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Rwanda from 2005 to 2007, and Benin from 2000 to 2005. He served as Research Director from April through October 2006 in the Secretariat of the General High-Level Panel on UN System-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

Keywords: #Africa #Rwanda #Liberia #Benin #UN #Mali #UNDP #Development #Humanitarian #POTI #PeaceKeeping #PeaceBuilding



Nicholas COPPEL – Australia

Nicholas Coppel is a former career diplomat and currently is President of the Australia Myanmar Institute. He was Australia's Ambassador to Myanmar (2015-2018), Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea (2001-2003), Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines (1997-1999) and has also served in Washington DC (1986-1989). From 2011-2013 he headed the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), an Australian-led regional peacekeeping and state building program of support to Solomon Islands following a period of profound ethnic conflict. The government of Solomon Islands awarded him the nation's second highest honour, the Cross of Solomon Islands (CSI), for his exceptional service.

Since leaving the foreign service, Nicholas has written numerous opinion editorials and is often sought by media organisations for expert commentary. He has published academic articles, book chapters and most recently co-authored the monograph, *Myanmar's Digital Coup – How the World Responded* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). The book is a critical analysis of how the international community is responding to Myanmar's 2021 *coup d'état*.

Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University and a Master of Business Administration from the London Business School.

Key words: #Myanmar #SolomonIslands #PapuaNewGuinea #Philippines #PacificIslandsForum #peacekeeping #ethnictensions #RAMSI #bilateral diplomacy



Nicholas KAY – United Kingdom

Sir Nicholas Kay joined is a former British diplomat. Most recently he was Regional Ambassador to sub-Saharan Africa ahead of the UN COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow. Prior to that he served as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan 2019-20.

Previously, Sir Nicholas was United Kingdom Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2017 to 2019, and Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa from 2016 to 2017. He served in the United Nations as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia from 2013 to 2016. He was Africa Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 2012 to 2013, and Ambassador to the Republic of the Democratic of the Congo and the Sudan from 2007 to 2010 and 2010

to 2012 respectively. From 2006-2007 he was the United Kingdom's Regional Coordinator for Southern Afghanistan and Head of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for Helmand Province.

In his earlier career, Sir Nicholas served in policy and diplomatic positions in London, Spain and Cuba. He also worked in the field of English language teaching in Cyprus, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

Sir Nicholas holds a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics from the University of Reading and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Language and Literature from the University of Oxford. He speaks English, French and Spanish.

Keywords: #UK #Afghanistan #Cuba #Spain #Pakistan #UN #WIPO #UNFCC #Africa #Somalia #DRC #Congo #Sudan #SaudiArabia #Peru #Brazil



Nina LAHOUD – United States of America

Nina Lahoud left the law firm of Shearman & Sterling in 1983 to join the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as the first female Legal Adviser appointed to a peacekeeping mission. Her UN career spanned over 33 years, during which she handled diverse legal, rule of law, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, development, human rights, and gender justice matters while serving in various offices at UN Headquarters, a UN Regional Commission, and six UN peacekeeping missions in Lebanon, Namibia, Cambodia, Croatia, Kosovo, and East Timor.

Before moving to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in 1997, she spent a decade in the UN Office of Legal Affairs. During her two decades in DPKO, she took on wide-ranging roles, including as Principal Officer to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping. In this capacity, she developed proposals for strengthening the gender architecture of UN peacekeeping missions and the integration of gender expertise in mission planning and assessment processes. As a member of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Women, Peace, and Security, she also shared these proposals with the 2015 High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Independent Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSC) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

Earlier, she served as DPKO's Deputy Director of the Asia and Middle East Division, Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Head of the Rule of Law Project. She spearheaded the Secretary-General's Executive Committee Task Force for the Development of Comprehensive Rule of Law Strategies for Peace Operations, and served as a member and secretariat head. She also held positions with other UN entities, including as Principal Officer to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Iraq, Gender Adviser to the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Special Peace, Security, and Rule of Law Adviser to the Executive Director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). On UNIFEM's behalf, she led the organization of two international conferences on gender justice in post-conflict situations, with the ground-breaking reports submitted to the UN Security Council.

Currently, Ms. Lahoud is on the Board of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), the Global Leadership Council of Seeds of Peace, and the Advisory Board of PassBlue, and is a member of other professional legal and foreign policy organizations. She is actively involved in various legal, social justice, and gender initiatives, and was appointed by the Secretary-General's Office to the Advisory Group to the UN High-Level Task Force on Financing for Gender Equality. Advocating for gender justice, she published, in advance of the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325, an article which offered recommendations for accelerating its implementation and its successor resolutions (see JOUP 24 (2020) 1-52).

She also participated as a speaker and moderator at the International Conference for Women, Peace and Security held in September 2022 in Abu Dhabi. Nina Lahoud holds a B.A. from Harvard University, and a Juris Doctorate and a Certificate in Islamic Law from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Keywords: #UN #Peacekeeping #RuleofLaw #WPS #Resolution1325 #GenderJustice #Gender #Women #DPKO #UNIFEM #UNIFIL #Namibia #Cambodia #Kosovo #EastTimor #Croatia #Middle East



Omar RIFAI – Jordan

Omar Rifai is a former Jordanian Ambassador, who joined his country's diplomatic service in 1975. He started his career serving in Jordan's missions in Cairo, Bern, New York, London, and Washington as a career diplomat. In 1996, Dr. Rifai was sworn in as Ambassador, and headed Jordan's diplomatic missions to Israel, Italy, and Egypt, where he was also his country's Permanent Representative to the Arab League in Cairo.

Other positions held by him included Secretary-General of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, President of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, and Director of the Arab Affairs Division of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and a member of Jordan's delegation to the Peace talks with Israel in 1994. He is a graduate of Harvard and Georgetown Universities.

Keywords: #Jordan #Europe #UK #Europe #Israel #Media #Switzerland #Egypt #Italy #Mediation



Omar SAMAD – Afghanistan

Ambassador Omar Samad is a non-resident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center (since 2018), and CEO of Silkroad Consulting (since 2013). He is a founding member and Co-director of the Salaam Center for Dialogue. He has been a member of the intra-Afghan dialogue platform, Afghan Future Thought Forum (AFTF) since 2022. Samad served as a Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation in 2021. In 2016, he resigned as Ambassador-designate to Belgium and the European Union. He was Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor to Afghanistan's Chief Executive (2014-2016). He served as Ambassador of Afghanistan to France from 2009-11, and Ambassador to Canada from 2004-09. He was Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry in Kabul (2002-04). Intermittently, Samad was Senior Afghan Expert in-residence at the US Institute of Peace, 2012-13, and as Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation, 2013-14. He earned a master's degree in international relations from the

Fletcher School (Tufts University) in 2006, and a B.A. degree in Communications from the American University in 1991. He is a frequent contributor to Afghan and international media, has spoken at numerous conferences and written extensively since the 1980s. He recently wrote "The 2021 Collapse: Lessons Learned from a Century of Upheavals and Afghanistan's Foreign Policy Vortex" in the edited book "The Great Power Competition – Vol. 4", published by Springer. He is a member of Diplomats Without Borders and Board member of the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA).

Keywords: #Afghanistan #France #Canada #Europe #Kabul #Media #Journalism #Reconciliation



Omer Dahab F. MOHAMED – Sudan

Omer Mohamed held positions as the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations from 2015, Vice President of the GA from 2018, and as President of the UNICEF Executive Council from 2019. Prior to these appointments, Mr. Mohamed was Sudan's ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2012, part of which period he was concurrently accredited to Belarus and Kazakhstan. Before that, he served as Chair of the Committee on Justice, Reconciliation, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Government's delegation to the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur.

Mr. Mohamed was Director of the Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution Department of Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010, a position he assumed after having served at his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 2004.

From 1999 to 2001, he headed the International Treaties Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, upon completing a term at his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. He has also served at his country's embassies in Malaysia (1991-1994), former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1987-1990) and the United Arab Emirates (1984-1987) after joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982.

He holds a master's degree in law from the People's Friendship University of Russia.

Keywords: #Sudan #Africa #Russia #Belarus #Kazakhstan #Malaysia #UAE #Yugoslavia #Europe #Asia #Justice #Reconciliation #HumanRights #GenderEquity #Youth #CrisisManagement #ConflictResolution #UN #UNGA #UNICEF #Media #Journalism #Reconciliation



Osnat LUBRANI – Israel

Osnat Lubrani retired from the United Nations end March 2024 after 26 years of service. She gained experience in coordinating United Nations development and humanitarian work, including in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as in counties in transition from conflict/dictatorship to democracy and peace. Senior positions she held include, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine (2018 - 2022), UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative based in Fiji, covering Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. During that period, she was designated Humanitarian Coordinator for the Solomon Islands (2014 Floods Disaster), Vanuatu (2015 Tropical Cyclone Pam), and Fiji (2017 Tropical Cyclone Winston). She served as the Development Coordinator, Resident Coordinator UNDP Representative in Kosovo (2008-2013). Osnat started her UN career in UNIFEM, where she helped to operationalize and became the first manager of the UN Trust Fund to end Violence against women. She went on to hold several other senior positions, including as Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, based in Bratislava, and Director of the Brussels liaison office for the EU. In her last year with the UN, she was invited to step in as ad interim Director of the UN Women Geneva office and chief of its Humanitarian section in Geneva, to support the organization in its new role as an IASC member leading gender in humanitarian action as part of system-wide humanitarian operations.

Since her retirement in 2024, Osnat is seeking to apply her experience and her passion, to advance multilateralism, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, through more innovation and less risk to proposing and testing solutions to the conflicts that threaten world peace. She holds special interest in the Ukraine-Russia and the Israel-Palestine conflict, but also grave conflicts in countries suffering acute protracted crises, that get too little attention, such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti, DRC. She is also committed to pushing forward on the pushback against gender equality and women's empowerment.

Besides her membership with Diplomats Without Borders, she has recently joined as a member of MENA2050, and as an associate researcher in the Austrian Institute of International Affairs.

Osnat holds two Masters' degrees from Columbia University's School of International Affairs (1997), New York University's Tisch Graduate School of the Arts for Film and Television Production (1988), and a Bachelors' degree from the Hebrew University in African Studies and Anthropology (1983).

Osnat was born in Jerusalem in 1958. She holds Israeli as well as American citizenships and is currently residing in Vienna.

Keywords: #Israel #UNDP #UNIFEM #Humanitarian #Post-conflict #Micronesia #Fiji #SolomonIslands #Vanuatu #Tuvalu #Tonga #DisasterRelief #Multilateralism #GenderEquality #Hebrew #EU #Geneva #CentralEurope #EasternEurope #Kosovo



Paul DZIATKOWIEC – Australia

Paul Dziatkowiec was an Australian diplomat before transitioning to conflict mediation, where he has held various senior roles over the last 12 years. He is the Director of Mediation and Peace Support at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), where he has launched and facilitates discreet dialogues in various regions, including the Caucasus, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Arctic, and Asia, as well as the US-China context.

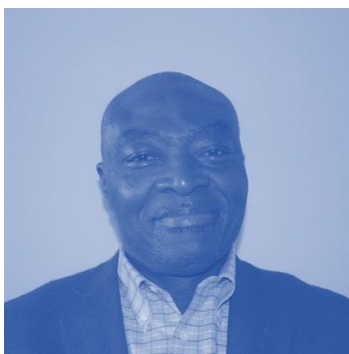
Previously at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), a leading conflict mediation organisation, Dziatkowiec managed numerous confidential dialogue tracks focused on Ukraine and security in Europe, including in the Ukraine-Russia and West-Russia context. In addition to his deployment to Ukraine, at HD he was involved in mediation in other conflict settings including Myanmar, Nigeria and Thailand. Also at HD, for five years he managed the Oslo Forum, the pre-eminent global forum for mediators and peace process actors.

In the Australian diplomatic service, Dziatkowiec served in Africa, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific. He was a peace monitor in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea after the civil conflict, where he was engaged in investigating ceasefire violations, awareness-raising of the peace agreement, weapons disposal and inter-communal reconciliation. For his services he received the Australian Service Medal.

Later Dziatkowiec served in the Middle East, where he was posted in Tel Aviv and periodically acted as Australia's Representative to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. Subsequently he became Australia's Deputy Ambassador in Nairobi, where from age 30 he regularly acted as Ambassador to Kenya and other countries of accreditation (including Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda) cumulatively for around a year – one of the youngest to serve with that rank.

In other roles in the diplomatic service Dziatkowiec engaged in multilateral negotiations at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Nairobi, where he was Australia's Deputy Permanent Representative. He has published on conflict and mediation in the context of Africa, Middle East, Arctic, and US-China relations, and delivered guest lectures on these subjects in various countries including China, Oman, Ukraine, Japan, Georgia and Liberia. He also advises or provides mediation support to other organisations engaged in peacemaking, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Keywords: #Australia #Pacific #GCSP #Ukraine #Russia #Poland #Asia #Myanmar #Thailand #China #PapuaNewGuinea #MiddleEast #Palestine #Israel #Africa #Nairobi #Nigeria #Somalia #SouthSudan #Rwanda #Burundi #Uganda #ConflictResolution #Mediation #BilateralRelations



Paul Adesola EGUNSOLA – Nigeria

Recently retired as Chief of Staff (COS) for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Liberia (UNMIL), Egunsola holds over 43 years' experience in the field of diplomacy and international relations.

While in the Foreign Service, Egunsola served on the Nigerian delegation to the UN the Security Council, focusing on African security challenges, including but not limited to the Rwandan Genocide, and Somali and Liberian civil wars. As COS in UNMIL and UNMISS, he served as the chief liaison to the respective host governments and supported the establishment of high-level platforms to facilitate space for political engagement, negotiation, diffusing tensions, and ensuring effective implementation of the Missions' mandates. The High-level Forum in South Sudan, which remains active to date, has served as a critical mechanism to ensure freedom of movement and safety of UN goods and personnel.

Both in the Nigerian Foreign Service, and during his tenure in the UN, Egunsola worked closely with and advised Nigerian Ambassadors and Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), on strategic and operational initiatives – ensuring the effective implementation of strategic priorities. For example, as the longest-serving Principal, he reinforced and advised four SRSGs on strategic and operational matters. This included

establishing and overseeing specialized organs that facilitate executive direction and streamline decision-making along policy and operational lines.

Furthermore, having served with the United Nations peace operations in Kosovo, Liberia, and South Sudan, Egunsola has significant experience in crisis management- preventing, managing, responding to, and mitigating multi-dimensional crises. As Chief of Staff in South Sudan, he assisted successive SRSs to manage a mission of over 22,000 personnel including military, police and civilian staff. Egunsola oversaw the strategic and operational response to the 2013 and 2016 outbreak of fighting in Juba, focusing on staff safety and security and ensuring continuity of mission's operations. Throughout the period, he reinforced integrated crisis management, and ensured processes were in place to enhance situational awareness and early warning mechanisms for the Mission.

Additionally, Egunsola oversaw the management of Protection of Civilian sites, responsible for providing physical protection for over 200,000 civilians during the war. With over 10 per cent of the displaced population in the country directly under the protection of the UNMISS, the office provided the strategic guidance to HoFOs to enhance the protection of displaced persons and developed frameworks and mechanisms to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach to camp management. Here, Egunsola worked closely with humanitarian and related agencies in finding sustainable solutions to the civilians in the UNMISS POC sites, four of which the Mission successfully redesignated to regular IDP camps.

Keywords: #CrisisManagement #Advisory #Negotiation #ConflictResolution #UNSecurityCouncil #UN #UNSRSG #UNMISS #UNMIL #Humanitarian #Aid #Africa #SouthSudan #Liberia #Somalia #Rwanda #Sudan #SouthSudan #Nigeria #Kosovo



Ranjit RAE – India

During a career spanning over three decades in the Indian Foreign Service, Ranjit Rae has been deeply involved in multilateral and bilateral diplomacy. He has worked in crisis situations and in conflict areas. As Head of the Northern Division of the External Affairs Ministry Rae was associated with the Peace Process that brought the Maoist insurgency to an end in 2006.

Rae is a former member of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and also served as a representative of the UN General Assembly on the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund. He has worked as a staff member in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York.

Prior to retirement in 2017, Rae served as India's Ambassador to Hungary, with concurrent accreditation to Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vietnam and Nepal. Furthermore, Rae has also worked as Staff Officer to the Foreign Secretary, Director of the Office of the Minister of External Affairs, and Press Secretary to the President of India.

After retirement Rae was appointed to the High-Level Group on Commonwealth Governance by Secretary General Dame Patricia Scotland. He is also a Member of the Peace Advisory Board of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Rae has a Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics and worked as a lecturer at St Stephen's College, Delhi University before joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1980. He has recently published his first book: *Kathmandu Dilemma, Resetting India-Nepal Ties* (Penguin 2021).

Keywords: #India #Hungary #BosniaHerzegovina #Slovenia #Kosovo #Vietnam #Nepal #PeaceNegotiations #Training #UNITAR



Rebecca TAVARES – United States of America

Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, Ed.D., is Vice Chair of DWB. She has served as President and CEO of Brazil Foundation since 2019. Previously Dr Tavares worked under the UN Secretary General as Executive Coordinator of Every Woman Every Child. Tavares served as Regional Representative with UN Women in Latin America and South Asia for ten years, leading UN teams to strengthen gender-sensitive government policies and women's civil society in Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan. Dr Tavares piloted the Female Military Officers Training Course (FMOC) with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Government of India, replicated subsequently by multiple peacekeeper training centres internationally. In addition to peacekeeper training and anti-trafficking programs coordinated with Ministries of Defence in six countries, Tavares has led corporate strategic planning, restructuring and board development in multilateral, philanthropic and private sector institutions on three continents.

Dr Tavares holds a doctorate from Harvard University and has published widely on gender policies in governance, racial and gender equity policies, reproductive health and rights, and microfinance in Latin America and South Asia. She is a member of the International Advisory Board of the School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego and is a board member of the Boaba Fund for Racial Equity in Brazil.

Keywords: #UN #UNWomen #Brazil #Equity #LatinAmerica #SouthAsia



Rebecca WEBBER GAUDIOSI – United States of America

A scientist by training, Dr Rebecca E. Webber Gaudiosi is a former U.S. diplomat and co-author of *Negotiating at the United Nations* (Routledge 2019). As a diplomat, Rebecca represented the United States at the United Nations from 2006 – 2015, during which she developed and delivered policies on environment and sustainable development for hundreds of negotiations at more than twenty-five environment- and sustainable development-related multilateral organisations, including the UN Environment Program (UNEP), all the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Over her 15-year diplomatic career, Ms. Gaudiosi also worked with various UN specialised agencies and on bilateral science and environment issues in the Middle East and Asia. Her last assignment with the U.S. State Department was working on human rights grants at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Ms. Gaudiosi is now a Fellow at the University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Governance and an independent consultant on negotiation and conflict resolution. She leads negotiation workshops for the United Nations and around the world.

Dr Gaudiosi holds a Masters' in Public Policy from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University. Rebecca is also an IMI-qualified mediator.

Keywords: #Science #Technology #Environment #Mediation #Negotiation #Multilateral #UN #USA #SustainableDevelopment #UNEP #UNGA #MENA #WTO #Singapore #UN #WIPO #UNFCCC #IRENA #Leadership #PeaceNegotiation #Trainer



Renier NIJSKENS – Belgium

Renier Nijskens started his diplomatic career in 1974 and held multiple positions until his retirement in 2019. After junior assignments to Iraq, the then Zaïre, Kuwait, Tunisia, Canada, he was appointed Ambassador to Niger and Burkina Faso in 1987, to Kenya, Uganda, Seychelles and the Comoros in 1994, to the Republic of Korea in 1998, to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2000, and to the Federal Republic of Germany in 2011.

In between those missions, Nijskens headed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Middle East and North Africa (1990 to 1994), the Asia and Far East Department (2007 to 2009), and the Africa Department (2009 to 2011).

He took a sabbatical leave in 2004 to become the Resident Representative in Johannesburg of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), covering the different NIMD African programs in support of multiparty democracy (2004-2007). After his career was extended in 2014 to become Inspector General of the Belgian Diplomatic and Consular Missions (2014-2016), he accepted a final assignment as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region (October 2016- September 2019).

During his Headquarters assignments, Nijskens played key roles as Belgium assumed major international responsibilities: during the country's membership of the UN Security Council in 1991–1992 and 2007–2008, as well as 2019–2020 (in the latter period addressing the Great Lakes crisis); as a member of the European Troika and European Chair of the EU Middle East Working Group during the Oslo peace process (1993–1994); as part of the EU Presidency of ASEM (Beijing, October 2008); and as Chair of the EU Africa Working Group and participant in the 3rd Africa-EU Summit during Belgium's EU Presidency in 2010 (Tripoli, November 2010).

Nijskens' stronger involvements included proactive support to the Middle East Peace process initiated through the Oslo negotiations, and initiatives to help facilitate its implementation, a.o. through a strong multilateral program. As Ambassador of Belgium to the Democratic Republic of Congo (2000-2004) Nijskens took a proactive role in stimulating the intensive negotiations among all stakeholders in Congo to end the rebellions and avoid balkanization of the DRC, leading to the Sun City accords and including the innovative creation of the 'Comité International pour l' Appui à la Transition' (CIAT), a diplomatic tool which proved crucial to avoid a backslide of the fragile transitional coalition (2002 to the elections of 2006). He also handled with the family, the delicate postcolonial issue of the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in the wake of a Belgian parliamentary commission on this matter. As Regional Director for Africa of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (2004-2007), Nijskens developed several African national Centers for Multiparty Dialogue and elaborated a regional program to help exchange and share best practices. As Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (2016-2019), Nijskens contributed actively to building a regional African and International coalition to help bar President Kabila from overstaying his last constitutional term to allow the people of the DRC to express their free electoral choice. Active support was also given to the mediation initiatives of the Finnish CMI in trying to depolarize the political situation in Burundi.

Although his appointments were all formally confined to the bilateral level, Nijskens was only able to succeed by involving altogether the numerous perspectives that multilateralism also offered, sometimes by creating synergies, sometimes through bilateral phases of support, as well as civil society, wherever possible.

Keywords: #Iraq #Zaïre #Kuwait #Tunisia #Canada #Niger #Burkina Faso #Kenya #Uganda #Seychelles #Comoros #Korea #DRC #Germany #UNSC #European Troika #Middle East #Africa



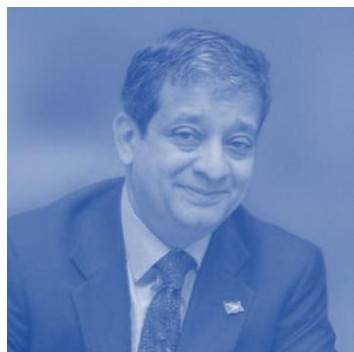
Richard BLEWITT – United Kingdom

Richard Blewitt is currently the Executive Director International at the British Red Cross, having formerly been the Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) to the UN. Before joining the IFRC, Mr. Blewitt served as United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Saint Maarten, a post he held for five years. Prior to this post, he was the Chief Executive Officer for HelpAge International for 6 years. Further to this, Mr. Blewitt was also active in the World Economic Forum for four years, attending the annual meetings in Davos and giving leadership in the

area of social protection and pension reform.

Richard Blewitt has also held several key leadership posts with humanitarian agencies such as the IFRC as Director of Movement Cooperation and then Acting Director of Policy and Communications and as the Director of Strategy, Planning, Coordination and IT for the British Red Cross. He also served as a Consultant Advisor with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and worked as a Deputy Director and then Regional Food Security Advisor for the Save the Children Fund.

Keywords: #Caribbean #Suriname #TrinidadTobago #Aruba #IFRC #UN



Riyad INSANALLY – Guyana

Riyad Insanally retired as Guyana's Eighth Ambassador to the United States and Fourth Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) in June 2021, after assuming the post in September 2016. He received Guyana's third highest award, the Cacique's Crown of Honour (CCH), in the 2019 National Honours, for "long and distinguished service in the field of diplomacy and international relations".

A career diplomat for 31 years, he specialised in multilateral diplomacy, regional integration issues and Latin America-Caribbean relations. Prior to his last appointment, he was the OAS Representative in Trinidad and Tobago (2008-2016); Adviser to the OAS Assistant Secretary General, in Washington, DC (2006-2008); Senior Trade Adviser at the Guyana High Commission and Commercial Representative of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, in London, representing Guyana's sugar interests in Europe (2004-2006); Political Adviser to the first two Secretaries General of the Association of Caribbean States in Port of Spain, Trinidad (1997-2003); and a Senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana (1990-1997), where he served, inter alia, as Deputy Director for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Head of the CARICOM Unit and first National Liaison Officer to the OAS. He was also a Lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages, at the University of Guyana, from 1981 to 1984.

He is currently a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Caribbean Initiative of the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Center for Latin America, a Fellow with the Caribbean Policy Consortium, and the Senior Caribbean Advisor at Transnational Strategy Group in Washington, DC. He is also an Associate of the University of Guyana Foundation; an inaugural member of the Global Advisory Council of The Presidential Precinct in Charlottesville, Virginia; and an Honorary Associate Fellow of the Centre for Caribbean Studies at the University of Warwick, UK.

He studied Modern Languages and Latin American Studies, and holds MA and MPhil degrees from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He is fluent in English and Spanish, and proficient in French.

Keywords: #MultilateralDiplomacy #BilateralDiplomacy #EnergyDiplomacy #RegionalIntegration #LatinAmerica #OAS #Caribbean #CARICOM #Guyana-VenezuelaBorderControversy



Robert ROGER NGANGUE – Cameroon

Mr. Robert Roger Ngangue was a human rights activist in Cameroon from 1993 to 2000. During this period, he coordinated the Support Program for the Local Development of Indigenous Bagyeli Peoples in Cameroon. The program was within the framework of the Cameroonian NGO Planet Survey, of which Robert Ngangue is the Founding President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. This program led to the enrolment of over 500 pygmies in primary and secondary schools, the issuance of over 1,000 birth certificates to the pygmies, and the empowerment of 300 women and young people from this group through the marketing of forest products and their active participation in global governance efforts to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Ngangue represented the International Prison Observatory (IOP) in Cameroon as Secretary General of the NGO's Cameroon Section. He was responsible for the institutional, strategic and operational development of the IOP in Cameroon. During this time, membership rose from 10 to 500 members,

including some 450 volunteers deployed around Cameroonian prisons to signal early warnings about the violations of prisoners' rights. Mr Ngangue has implemented a program to provide legal and judicial assistance for prisoners, funded by the European Union Delegation to Cameroon. The program led to the decongestion of the prisons in Yaoundé, Mfou, Akonolinga and Mbalmayo, with over 1,000 detainees tried, sentenced or released. Over the same period, he visited almost all Cameroonian prisons to monitor the situation of people in detention and drafted an annual report on conditions of detention which was forwarded to the government authorities in charge of prisons. He also presented the report to the media to mobilize public opinion around the issue of obsolete prisons in Cameroon, and to encourage corrective measures in the functioning of the Cameroon penitentiary institution. These efforts earned him a position on the Interministerial Committee for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights in Cameroon, and a grant from the Cameroon High Commission in 1998 for the publication of an essay entitled ABC des droits des personnes détenues au Cameroun which means ABC of prisoners' rights in Cameroon.

Since 2000, Mr. Ngangue has served in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He is a seasoned peace expert with nearly 25 years of specific experience in international conflict management, supporting peace processes and local conflict resolution to overcome tensions, crises and political disputes in a non-violent and sustainable manner. He has numerous achievements in the fields of designing and implementing peace processes, facilitating and supporting political and community dialogues, peace talks, mediation, ceasefire negotiations with armed groups, ceasefire monitoring, preventive diplomacy and reconciliation at national, sub-national and local levels, notably in Kosovo, DR Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and the Central African Republic. . He is a PhD candidate in mediation and conflict resolution, holds a master's degree in Conflictology, and a diploma as a certified professional mediator, accredited by the International Institute of Mediators. He is a member of several international networks in the field of mediation and dialogue facilitation. Mr. Ngangue has taken an early retirement from the UN and plans to use his expertise and passion for mediation and preventive diplomacy to promote less conflict-ridden societies and humanity on the African continent. This will be achieved through his NGO Ombudsperson and Mediation Initiative (OMI), which he founded in October 2024.

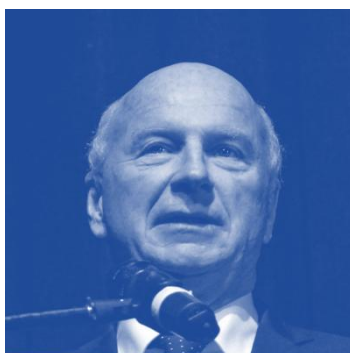
Keywords: #Cameroon #IPO #UNDPO #Conflictology #Mediation #Diplomacy



Roberta CLARKE – Trinidad & Tobago

Roberta Clarke is currently a commissioner at the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. An activist for social justice and gender equality, she has led UN Women Regional Offices in East and Southern Africa, Asia Pacific, the Caribbean and in Libya. Prior to her career at the United Nations, she practiced as a lawyer in Trinidad and Tobago. She has been and is engaged in a range of civil society organisations at the national and international levels.

Keywords: #EastAfrica #SouthernAfrica #UNWomen #HumanRights #Law #Equity #Africa #AsiaPacific #Caribbean #Libya #TrinidadTobago



Roeland VAN DE GEER – Netherlands

Roeland van de Geer, a retired diplomat of the European Union and the Netherlands government, is chairman and member of the boards of a range of NGOs active on the African continent in the fields of governance, mediation and capacity building in conservation and agriculture. In the period 1978 - 1994, Mr. van de Geer was a staff member of the Free University, Amsterdam and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. In 1994, he was appointed Dutch ambassador to Mozambique, in 1998 Western Hemisphere Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in 2002 Africa Director. He then served as Dutch ambassador to Afghanistan and was appointed as Special Representative of the EU for the African Great Lakes Region in 2007. In 2011, he became

Ambassador of the EU to South Africa and in 2015 Ambassador of the EU to Tanzania and the East African Community. In 2018 and 2019 he served as the Coordinator of the European Union for the African Great Lakes Region.

Keywords: #Governance #Mediation #CapacityBuilding #SouthernAfrica #EU #Netherlands #NGO #Africa #Afghanistan #Tanzania #Mozambique



Sheila CAMERER – South Africa

Sheila Camerer is a former Member of Parliament and Ambassador. She was elected to Parliament in 1987 and served as an MP, representing constituencies in Johannesburg, for 22 years until 2009 President Thabo Mbeki appointed her as Ambassador to Bulgaria 2009-2013.

She took part in South Africa's constitutional negotiations from the start in 1991 to 1996 when the final constitution was adopted. She served initially on the multi-party media committee and then as a member of Working Group 2 of CODESA. At the beginning of 1993 she was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice by President F W De Klerk in which capacity she chaired the Ad Hoc Committee of the Negotiating Council of the Multi-Party talks at the World Trade Centre on the Bill of Rights. Subsequently she was a negotiator on the Bill of Rights in the Constitutional Assembly of the new democratic Parliament and served as Deputy Minister of Justice in President Nelson Mandela's Government of National Unity.

She was elected as a National Party MP but in 1999/2000 she helped to found the Democratic Alliance (DA), now South Africa's largest opposition party and the Official Opposition in Parliament, and was its first Parliamentary caucus chair. As a DA MP she served as Party spokesperson on Justice and Constitutional Development. She served on various other Parliamentary portfolio committees including International Relations and the Joint Committee on the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women.

Sheila Camerer is still a practising attorney and serves on the DA'S Federal Legal Commission. From 2015 to 2022 she chaired the Western Cape branch of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and is currently vice chair. In 2023 she was elected to the Executive Committee of the National Council of SAIIA.

Born and brought up in Cape Town where she resides today, she is a Patron of Cape Town City Ballet and chairs their endowment trust, is a member of the International Women Club and serves on other executive committees associated with the arts and community bodies.

Keywords: #SouthAfrica #Bulgaria #Negotiation #Africa #GenderEquality



Stephanie WILLIAMS – United States of America

Stephanie Williams has extensive experience in international mediation, diplomacy, and security policy. With the United Nations, she served most recently as the Special Adviser to Secretary General on Libya (2021-2022), Acting Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) (2020-2021), and as Deputy Special Representative (Political) of UNSMIL (2018-2020). Williams led the United Nations' mediation that resulted in a nation-wide Libyan ceasefire agreement signed on October 23, 2020 and a political agreement reached on February 5, 2021 that produced Libya's first unity government in seven years.

Williams retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018 with the rank of Minister-Counsellor after serving as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. for the U.S. Embassy to Libya based in Tunisia. She also served as Senior Adviser on Syria (2017-2018), Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission in Iraq (2016-2017), in Jordan (2013-2015) and in Bahrain (2010-2013) in addition to tours in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Pakistan. In Washington, she served in a variety of policy jobs, including as Director of Maghreb Affairs.

Williams graduated with honours from the University of Maryland in 1987 with a double degree in Economics and Government Relations. In 1989, she earned a Master's Degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. She is a 'Distinguished Graduate' of the National War College, where she earned a Master's Degree in National Security Studies in 2008. Williams is fluent in Arabic, has authored a number of articles on Libya, Lebanon and non-state armed actors, and been a featured speaker in a variety of international fora. In addition to serving as a Senior Fellow at the SAIS-Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute, she is a Non-

Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy and a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy. In 2021, Williams was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for her work in Libya.

Keywords: #USA #Libya #Tunis #Arabic #MiddleEast #UN #UNSMIL #Mediation #Iraq #Jordan #Bahrain #Pakistan #UAE #Kuwait #Maghreb #Security



Tekeda ALEMU – Ethiopia

Ambassador Tekeda Alemu was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He had his Elementary and High School education in the same city. In 1970 he left for the U.S., after only a year at the then Haileselassie University. He received a BA and master's in political science and international relations from UCLA and a PhD in the same field from Clermont Graduate School.

Having returned to Ethiopia in 1983 he served as Assistant professor for three years at the now Addis Ababa University. At the same time, he began his diplomatic career with the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry as a First Secretary, assuming responsibility as the Head of the African Department by 1989. He was subsequently made Deputy Foreign Minister and then State Minister, staying in that position all together for close to twenty years until he was appointed as Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in New York in 2010, where he served for more than seven years, including as President of the Security Council in September 2017. He is now President of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation (CDRC).

Keywords: #Africa #Ethiopia #USA #UN #NewYork #SecurityCouncil #CDRC #AddisAbaba



Thierry BECHET – Belgium

Ambassador Bechet started his career as a national diplomat and joined the External Relations department of the European Commission in 1989 to deal with Middle East issues. In 1991 he became member of the cabinets of two successive members of the European Commission, dealing mainly with foreign policy, energy and institutional matters. He was the European Commission's head of delegation in Jerusalem from 1996 to 1999 and went on to serve as deputy-chef de cabinet for the EC commissioner in charge of development policy and humanitarian assistance from 1999 to 2003. He then spent four years in Geneva in charge of the EC's relationship with the United Nations system.

He went back to the EEAS headquarters where he dealt with the Eastern Partnership and various regional files, including the OSCE. He has been involved in conflict resolution, in particular as chair of the 2nd working group of the Geneva Discussions on Georgia. Ambassador Bechet was appointed Permanent Representative of the European Union to the OSCE in Vienna in February 2013. He was the EU's ambassador to Norway between 2017 and 2021. In August 2021, he was appointed Chief of Protocol of the European Diplomatic Service in Brussels. Since retiring from the European civil service in August 2023, he has been dividing his time between international consulting, teaching, coaching of diplomatic service officers, and NGO work.

Keywords: #Israel #Belgium #SaudiArabia #MiddleEast #Yemen #Oman #EU #EuropeanCommission #CDRC #Norway



Vladimir Zhagora – Belarus

A graduate of Minsk State Linguistic University (BA in Humanities, in 1972) and Belarusian State University (PhD in Political Philosophy, in 1980). Before joining the United Nations in 1988, Vladimir Zhagora taught for nine years Political Science and International Relations in various higher educational institutions in the city of Minsk, Belarus.

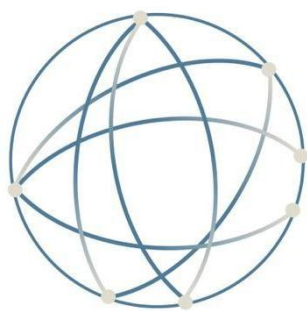
During more than 23 years at the United Nations Secretariat, Vladimir participated in the negotiations on the political settlements in South Africa, Somalia, between Eritrea and Ethiopia, in The Sudan, including Northern and Southern Sudan, in Darfur and in Eastern Sudan, as well as in Eastern DRC, Kenya, Northern Uganda and Zimbabwe. From 2010 till 2012, provided substantive liaison and institutional support from the United Nations to the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel led by President Thabo Mbeki on the settlement in the Sudan. During mediation processes in Kenya, South Sudan, Darfur, Northern Uganda and Eastern DRC closely interacted with various regional mediation entities led by former Presidents Buyoya, Obasanjo, Mkapa, Chissano, Abubakar, as well as Dr Salim Ahmed Salim and Ambassadors Eliasson and Sahnoun. In 2008-2009 he was closely involved in the resolution of the crisis in Kenya by coordinating UN support to the AU Panel of Eminent Personalities in Kenya led by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

In March 2014, Vladimir was designated as the representative of the Department of Political Affairs in Ukraine. In 2015, he served as the Coordinator of the Security Council Group of Experts on South Sudan.

Linked to the above are his field deployments: in 1992-1994 with UNOMSA in South Africa; in 2002-2003 with UNMEE in Eritrea and Ethiopia; in 2004-2005 with UNAMIS/ UNMIS in the Sudan; in 2006-2007 in Uganda and in South Sudan; in 2008 in Zimbabwe; in 2008-2009 in Kenya; in 2010-2012 in Ethiopia; in 2014 in Ukraine.

From 2005 until his retirement in 2009, he served as a Mediation Focal Point for Africa at the Department of Political Affairs. Although retired, Vladimir participates in the activities of the Science for Peace Council (Canada) and supports the debates in the Political Discussion Group of the former UN staff members on the war in Ukraine.

Keywords: #Belarus #Ukraine #Canada #UN #Africa #UNOMSA #UNMEE #UNMIS #Mediation #ConflictMediation #Kenya #Ethiopia #SouthAfrica



Waldemar COUTTS – Chile

Waldemar Coutts is an experienced diplomat, with particular specialisations in climate and sustainable development. He participated in Chilean Delegations to COP16 through COP21 and COP26, and helped launch the first “Because the Ocean” Declaration in COP21 in Paris. Coutts furthermore participated in the Our Ocean Conference process, started by Secretary John Kerry in WDC in 2014, and was Head of Contents of the second Our Ocean Conference in Valparaiso, Chile, in October 2015. Coutts is generally active in promoting a greater role for the oceans in the climate change regime, including his role in the BBNJ/High Seas Treaty. Other roles include his position as Head of Delegation to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organization/SPRFMO

and participation in Rio+20.

Coutts was Ambassador to Norway (2017-2020), and Chilean Sherpa in the Ocean Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, created by Norway in 2018. He also supported the creation of a bilateral Ministerial Level Ocean Dialogue in 2020.

After finishing his education at the Diplomatic Academy of Chile and an MA in international relations at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, Coutts went on to serve Chilean Embassies and Missions in Germany, Poland, the UN in New York, Argentina, Cuba and Norway. From 2009 to 2016, and again in 2021, he served as Deputy-Director and Director of Environment, Climate Change and Oceans at the MOFA of Chile.

Keywords: #Chile #SouthAmerica #LatinAmerica #Argentina #Cuba #Europe #Norway #UN #ClimateChange #Oceans #Sustainability #COP



Waldemar VREY – South Africa

Waldemar Vrey (Wally) is a South African national who served the United Nations formerly at the level of Assistant Secretary General as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Political and Rule of Law in Liberia from October 2015 until mission closure in March 2018. Waldemar also served in various other UN Peacekeeping and Political missions during an international career of almost 14 years. Since completing his service with the UN, Waldemar has been used as expert trainer and mentor on UN Crisis Management, Leadership, SSR and DDR by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the Finnish Conflict Management Centre and Finnish Defence Forces International Centre, and the UN System Staff College. During 2021/22,

Wally led a small team of SSR experts for a global review of lessons learnt in SSR practice at HQ and field levels for the UN Department of Peace Operations: Towards Better Security Governance: Learning from the Road Travelled - An independent review of UN support to SSR in peace operations 2014-2020. He continues to be used as expert by DCAF (ISSAT) for mission mandate analyses.

Waldemar has a proven track record for working on challenging security and justice sector issues in complex conflict-affected countries. He is experienced in the areas of Peace Agreements, Security Sector Development, Governance and the Rule of Law, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration approaches. His expertise includes the areas of Leadership, the use of Good Offices and Prevention, Mission Transition, Planning and Organizing, Building Trust and Crisis Management. Due to extensive exposure, he is able to operate in culturally sensitive working environments with the ability to establish himself and build confidence with national counterparts through good listening skills, patience and empathy, understanding the need for humility to build strategic relationships. Waldemar is also experienced in the building of knowledge and confidence through training, seminars and roundtable discussions.

Before joining the United Nations, Waldemar served in the SA National Defence Force, retiring as Chief of Staff, 46 SA Brigade. During his military career, he also served as Battalion Commander, Contingent Commander of SA Forces deployed in Burundi, and served as Chief of Staff of the African Union Mission in Burundi.

Keywords: #SouthAfrica #Security #Peacekeeping #UN #ConflictResolution #Burundi #Africa #Training #Mediation



Won-Soo KIM – Republic of Korea

Mr. Kim Won-soo is the Rector of the Global Academy for Future Civilizations at the Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. He is also the Chair of the International Advisory Board of the Taejae Future Consensus Institute in Seoul, Korea as well as the member of the Eminent Persons Group of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the board member of the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens respectively based in Vienna, Austria.

Before that, he has diplomatic and policy experience of forty years which began in 1978 joining the Korean Foreign Ministry and then moving to the United Nations in 2007 after successfully leading the campaign and transition team for the newly elected 8th Secretary-General in 2006. Over the next ten years, he served as a most senior official at the United Nations. He was the Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs from 2015 to 2017.

Prior to taking on this post, Mr. Kim worked as the Assistant Secretary-General and the Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General from 2007 to 2012, led the Change Implementation team from 2012 to 2013 and then served as the Secretary of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). As Secretary of the CEB from 2013 to 2014, he was in charge of the system wide coordination of key multilateral policy issues relevant to all the executive heads of the United Nations (UN) system, including the Bretton Woods institutions. In these capacities, he played a catalytic role in ensuring more effective and coherent response to global and regional challenges to international peace and security, development as well as human rights and justice by promoting the unity of purpose and the culture of working together within the UN system.

As Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and subsequently as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim served as the link between the United Nations and partner international organisations involved in the global disarmament agenda. Throughout his tenure as a most senior official of the UN system at the political appointee level over a decade, he also focused on developing a multi-stakeholder partnership with international organisations and Member States, in close cooperation with the civil society and private sector including the industry and business as well as the scientific and academic communities.

Before joining the UN in 2007, he worked in the Office of the President of the Republic of Korea, serving as Secretary for International Security Affairs from 2000 to 2002 and as Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2002 to 2003. He then served as Director-General for Policy Planning and Ambassador for Regional Security Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004 to 2005, and in 2006 as Ambassador for UN issues and Special Adviser to the Foreign Minister. His diplomatic career also included overseas postings at the Republic of Korea embassies in Washington D.C., USA and New Delhi, India as well as the Korean Mission to the UN, New York, USA.

Mr. Kim holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Seoul National University, and a Master of Arts degree from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, United States. In addition, he was a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University, United States, and did doctoral research in international law following the completion of a Master of Laws degree.

Keywords: #RepublicOfKorea #Environment #Health #WHO #UNDP #Africa #Asia #Europe #ArabStates #Multilateral



Ye-Min WU – Singapore

Ye-Min Wu has more than 15 years of experience as a diplomat, having represented Singapore at the United Nations (UN), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and World Trade Organization (WTO). She has chaired UN negotiations, and represented the Group of 77 and China in negotiations on sustainable development issues. She was also Singapore's Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO and WIPO. Ye-Min co-authored *Negotiating at the United Nations: A Practitioner's Guide* (Routledge 2019), which is used as a textbook at various institutions. She conducts workshops and lectures on negotiation and leadership in diplomacy for governments, universities, and other training programs. She has a Master's degree from the Johns Hopkins

University School of Advanced International Studies.

Keywords: #Negotiation #WTO #Singapore #UN #WIPO #UNFCC #Leadership #Training



Zineb TOUIMI-BENJELLOUN – Morocco

Zineb Touimi Benjelloun is a career United Nations development practitioner. She served the organisation for 33 years in a number of countries and in various capacities. She started her career as Research and Training Officer with INSTRAW in New York and the Dominican Republic, then as Assistant Representative with UNFPA in Morocco. Her next assignment was with UNIFEM as Regional Programme Director for North Africa. Following that, she served as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Albania and then in Kuwait. In these various capacities, she led and promoted UN reform initiatives, such as the piloting of the Delivering as One initiative in Albania, to enhance the collective impact of UN System

support and responsiveness to country level sustainable development challenges and priorities. She also spearheaded the advocacy, programming and resource mobilisation required to address the broad spectrum of these challenges and priorities. Throughout her career, Zineb focused greatly on gender justice issues, including violence against women, women's leadership and political participation, gender and transitional justice and women's economic empowerment.

Following her retirement from the United Nations, Zineb joined the Mediterranean Network of Women Mediators part of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators. She is a founding member of the Moroccan Network of Women Mediators. She also provides advisory services on various gender equality issues to both UN and non-UN organisations.

Zineb is a graduate of Harvard University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Columbia University where she received a Master's degree in International Affairs.

Keywords: #GenderEquality #WomenPeace&Security #SustainableDevelopment #UNReform #NorthAfrica #Albania #Kuwait #INSTRAW #UNFPA #UNIFEM #UNWomen #UNDP