

# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, UN2020 & Together First

## UN@75 & Agenda 2030: For *Inclusive* Stakeholder Engagement

Friday, June 28, 2019 from 1PM-3PM



**H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations.** Dr. Mlynár, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on August 17, 2017. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Mlynár was Slovakia's Director-General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid between 2015 and 2017. From 2012 to 2015, he was Ambassador to Kenya and to the United Nations agencies in Nairobi. Dr. Mlynár held several positions from 2010 until 2011, including Head of the Project Team for Security Sector Reform, Deputy Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Minister, and Head of the Unit for Coordination of Candidatures and Cross-Cutting United Nations activities. Between 2004 and 2009, Dr. Mlynár was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and his

delegation's political coordinator on the Security Council from 2006 to 2007. He was also Deputy Chef de Cabinet and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister between 2002 and 2004. Dr. Mlynár holds a master's degree in teaching and a Ph.D in the theory of teaching foreign languages from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.



**Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations at the Under-Secretary-General level.** In April 2019, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild of Chile as his Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations at the Under-Secretary-General level. Mr. Hochschild, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General since 2017, will support the Secretary-General in coordinating the preparations for the commemoration of the Organization's seventy-fifth anniversary in 2020 and related celebrations, through a system-wide process of consultations and reflections on the role of the United Nations in advancing international cooperation

and in supporting the ability of Member States to respond to emerging challenges and frontier issues. The Special Adviser will liaise and work with Secretariat entities in support of the intergovernmental consultations on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary, led by co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly and future intergovernmental processes. He will also draw on expertise within the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system to further develop proposals for the Secretary-General on themes and events, allowing for reflection on the contribution the Organization can make to the future that we aspire to, based on the goals enshrined in the Charter. To this end, Mr. Hochschild will facilitate consultations with civil society, youth representatives, academia and the private sector.



**Mr. Maher Nasser Director of the Outreach Division for the United Nations Department of Global Communications.** Mr. Nasser has over 31 years of work experience in the United Nations System. In the last seven years, Mr. Nasser was appointed three times as Acting Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Global Communications (April to August 2012, August 2014 to February 2015, and most recently as Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications from 1 April to 31 August 2017). Mr. Nasser took up his current position as Director of DGC's Outreach Division in February 2011. Prior to his current posting, he has worked in various capacities with the UN Department of Global Communications, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in Vienna, Cairo, Amman, Jerusalem

and Gaza. In February 2019, United Nations Secretary-General designated Mr. Nasser as Commissioner-General for United Nations' Participation in Expo 2020 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Maher Nasser holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bir Zeit University in Palestine and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Warwick in the UK. He joined Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as a visiting Scholar while on Sabbatical Leave from the United Nations between January and May 2018. He is married with three children. An occasional runner, he completed the New York City Marathon in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Twitter: @MaherNasserUN, LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mynetwork/>



**Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe, Executive Director of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) and Chief Speechwriter for the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.**

Ms. Samarasinghe has worked with United Nations Association, since 2006. She is currently on leave of absence from UNA-UK, working as the chief speechwriter in English for the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As the first woman to head the United Nations Association-UK, she has overall responsibility for UNA-UK's programmes, with particular focus on advocacy, strategic communications, human rights, peace and security, and UN reform, including the Together First campaign on the Organization's 75th anniversary in 2020. Ms. Samarasinghe is a regular commentator on UN issues, and has edited or contributed to publications including the SAGE

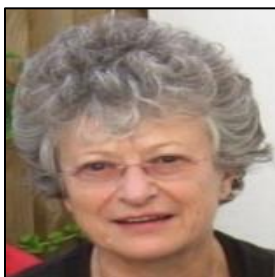
Major Work on the UN, The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations and the "Global Goals" and "Climate 2020" series. She has advised or served as a trustee for organisations including the Association of Citizenship Teaching, Sri Lanka Campaign and the Doc Society film foundation. In 2013, she co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign for a more transparent and inclusive process to select the UN Secretary-General. In 2018, she was awarded a prize by the Global Challenges Foundation for a proposal to open up UN decision-making and delivery to external stakeholders.



**Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor to UN2020 on behalf of the Global Civil Society Alliance CIVICUS.**

Mr. Huffines joined CIVICUS in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). He was an Organizing Partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding the multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs at Rio+20, the post-2015 negotiations of the 2030 Agenda, and at the High-level Political Forum. Mr. Huffines was Chair of the 65th UN NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014, and was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee from 2007-2011. Mr. Huffines had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community where he led a number of NGO initiatives

as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



**Ms. Barbara Adams, President of Global Policy Forum and Adjunct Professor at the New School University of New York City.**

As an adjunct professor at the New School University, Ms. Adams' is focused on partnership, development and governance. Trained as an economist, Ms. Adams' experience has many facets – as a researcher and teacher, as a CSO policy advocate, and with a long tenure working for the United Nations. A consistent theme has been strengthening and supporting CSO engagement with the multilateral and UN system and in intergovernmental policy processes, including during the many phases of Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals. She has authored and co-authored many articles, reports, commissioned studies and books, and is a regular contributor in

the Global Policy Watch briefings series. Publications include: *Accounting for Africa at the United Nations: A Guide for Non-Governmental Organizations*; *Putting Gender on the Agenda: A Guide to Participating in UN World Conferences*; *Climate Justice in a Changing World*, co-authored with Gretchen Luchsinger; *Reclaiming Multilateralism for People, Rights and Sustainable Development*; *Whose Development, Whose UN?*; and *Fit for Whose Purpose?*, co-authored with Jens Martens.



**Mr. Daniel Perell, Baha'i International Community & NGO Major Group Global Organizing Partner for HLPF.**

Mr. Perell joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He is currently a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Mr. Perell received a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and was admitted to the New York State Bar Association.



**Ms. Soon-Young Yoon, Chair of the Board at the Women's Environment and Development Organization, UN representative for the International Alliance of Women.** Ms. Yoon is a Past Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY. During her tenure with the NGO CSW/NY, the committee launched the Cities for CEDAW campaign. She was a Social Development officer for UNICEF in the Southeast Asia office as well as the Social Scientist at WHO/SEARO in New Delhi. She serves as a board member of the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University and on the Global Advisory Board of the Harvard AIDS Initiative. She is also a founding member of the Women Mayor's Network in association with the National Democratic Institute. A former columnist for the EarthTimes newspaper, she is co-editor with Dr. Jonathan Samet of the WHO monograph, "Gender, Women, and the Tobacco Epidemic."

Ms. Yoon received her A.B. in French literature with honors and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Michigan. She is married to Richard M. Smith, former Editor-in-Chief and President of Newsweek and current President of the Pinkerton Foundation.



**Ms. Jolly Amatya is Executive Director of Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative the Secretariat of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY).** Ms. Amatya is a young professional from Nepal who currently serves as the Secretariat of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY). In addition to being very engaged in the youth space at the UN, she is also the Executive Director of Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative (SFFI), a social enterprise that creates sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs for marginalized women by providing capacity building/training, lifelong learning initiatives (for young women), micro loans, and required assistance to develop cooperatives positively impacting families, especially women and youth in rural Nepal. She has previously served as the Co-Chair and the Senior Program Coordinator for the "Youth Assembly at the United Nations", a biannual youth conference at the UNHQ organized by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation that provides a unique platform for fostering dialogues and generating partnerships between youth, civil society, private sector, and the UN.

She serves as the Honorary Tourism Ambassador for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Nepal. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the US National Committee for UN Women, New York Chapter. She has recently been recognized by the "National Youth Award 2018" by the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Youth) & "Champions of Change" by the US National Committee of UN Women in 2018.



**Ms. Eleanor Blomstrom, Program Officer, International Women's Health Coalition.** Ms. Blomstrom is an advocate for women's rights and sustainable development, with expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), climate change and disaster risk reduction. At IWHC, she works within the advocacy and policy team to ensure women's rights and SRHR are prioritized into global policies and programs, particularly focusing on UN agencies and processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage. Prior to IWHC, she was co-Director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), where she led research, capacity building, and global-level advocacy in UN processes, including the 2030 sustainable development agenda. She has extensive experience facilitating alliances of women's rights and feminist groups, driving diverse collaboration in multiple spaces. She is a former teacher and also holds a Master of International Affairs in Urban and Environmental Policy.

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**Ms. Eleanor Openshaw, Co-Director and Head of Regional Advocacy of the International Service for Human Rights NY Office.** Ms. Openshaw leads ISHR's work to promote NGO participation and protect civil society space at the UN. She also coordinates our work at the Inter-American Commission and in the Latin American region. Before joining ISHR, she worked at Amnesty International and Peace Brigades International. Ms. Openshaw holds degrees in human rights and modern history from the University of Oxford and London Metropolitan University. Follow her on Twitter @EleanorOpenshaw.

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