

## 2023 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) Speaker Bios

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### Day 1: Opening

#### Speaker



**H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva** is the seventy-eighth President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and also the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York. Before her appointment as the ECOSOC president, Ms. Stoeva headed the Department of Economic, Financial and Administrative Affairs of the United Nations, in Bulgaria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and served as Bulgaria's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2016 to 2019, prior to which she was Acting Deputy Permanent Representative and Counsellor.



**Ms. Amina Mohammed** is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and protection of the natural environment. Ms. Mohammed led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals when she served as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning.



**Mr. Avinash Persaud** is the Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Barbados on Investment and Financial Services and Emeritus Professor of Gresham College in the UK. Mr. Persaud has also served as Chairman of Intelligence Capital Ltd., the non-Executive Chairman of the London-based Elara Capital, a Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, Executive Fellow of London Business School and Senior Fellow with the Caribbean Policy Research Institute and Head of its Barbados office.

## Session I: Protecting lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable for more effective development cooperation



**Mr. Li Junhua** is Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He was previously the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. Prior to this, Mr. Li was Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China from 2013 to 2019. Mr. Li has also contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS, etc.



**Ms. Rabab Fatima** is Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the current Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York. Prior to this, Ms. Fatima was the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan (2016-2019), Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh (2015-2016), Regional Representative for South Asia (2007-2011) and Regional Adviser for South and Southwest Asia and Regional Adviser for Climate Change and Migration (2012-2015) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva and Head of Human Rights at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London (2006-2007).



**Mr. Khalifa Jassim Al-Kuwari** is the Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development, managing the State of Qatar's foreign aid and international development activities. Since 2014, he led the establishment, strategy-setting, operationalization, partnerships, and funding programs of the Qatar Fund for Development in various developing countries. Previously, Mr. Al-Kuwari was the Chief Operating Officer of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), where he oversaw the entire business support infrastructure and led several initiatives to improve the performance of support functions. Prior to that, Mr. Al-Kuwari was the QIA Executive Director of Joint Venture and International Business, where he managed the investment joint ventures and government-to-government relations



**Mr. Olivier De Schutter** is the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. As an expert on social and economic rights and on economic globalization and human rights, Mr. De Schutter served between 2004 and 2008 as a Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). Mr. De Schutter was then appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, a mandate which he fulfilled between 2008 and 2014. Mr. De Schutter was elected a Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which he joined in 2015 and to which he was reelected in 2019. Besides, Mr. De Schutter was awarded the prestigious Francqui Prize for his contribution to international human rights law and to the theory of governance.



**Mr. Salih Booker** is the Senior Program Officer for International Cooperation and Global Governance in the Ford Foundation. Prior to this, Mr. Booker was president and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Center for International Policy and had worked at a range of organizations focused on international relations and American foreign policy, including US Institute of Peace, Africa Action, Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Booker was also a staff member of the U.S. Congress's Committee on Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa.



**Ms. Karla Majano de Palma** is the Director-General of the Agency for International Cooperation of El Salvador, current Chair of the Board of Directors of the Interamerican Agency for Cooperation and Development of the Organization of American States, Official in charge of international cooperation of the Republic of El Salvador at the Meeting of Directors of Cooperation of the Central American Integration System, at the meeting of cooperation officers in the Ibero-American Secretariat General and at the Ibero-American Program for Strengthening South-South Cooperation. She also serves as focal point on behalf of El Salvador in the working-group of countries for the preparation of the III Quadrennial Action Plan for Ibero-American Cooperation.





**H.E. Mr. Björn Olof Skoog** is the Ambassador and Head of European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York. Most recently, Mr. Skoog was the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN, and in this capacity served as the Chairman of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and President of the UN Security Council. Mr. Skoog has previously been Director-General for Political Affairs in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has represented Sweden at the EU and at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Mr. Skoog has also been Swedish Ambassador to Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama and served as Executive Assistant to Dr. Hans Blix in the UN verification of WMD in Iraq.



**Ms. Carmen Correa** is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pro Mujer, a not-for-profit social enterprise working to advance gender equality in Latin America. Before joining Pro Mujer, Ms. Correa led efforts at the National Research and Innovation Agency in Uruguay, served as the Program Director at Fundación Avina, was the Director of Operations and, the Executive Director of Endeavor Uruguay, and held various positions at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington D.C. and the Organization of American States in Uruguay.



**Mr. Eric Pelofsky** is Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice President in the President's Office of The Rockefeller Foundation. Previously, Mr. Pelofsky served as Senior Director of International Affairs for Shell in the United States and also as a Special Assistant to U.S. President Barack Obama and Senior Director for North Africa and Yemen at the White House (National Security Council).



**Mr. Robin Ogilvy** is Permanent Observer and Special Representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to the United Nations. Before his latest appointment, Mr. Ogilvy served as an Adviser in the office of the OECD Secretary-General since 2014, supporting the delivery of corporate initiatives such as the OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals. Having joined OECD in 2009 as a policy analyst and subsequently Senior Policy Advisor on aid effectiveness, Mr. Ogilvy previously headed the United Nations Aid Coordination Unit in Rwanda and was also a fellow at the United Kingdom-based Overseas Development Institute.



**Mr. Vitalice Meja** is the Executive Director of the Reality of Aid Africa Network which is a pan African Network working on Poverty Eradication through Effective Development Co-operation. Mr. Meja is also the Co-Chair for the Non-Executive constituency at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) as well as a member of the Technical working group of the African Platform on development effectiveness.

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## Session II: Scaling up effective development cooperation for climate resilience



**H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat** has been the Minister of International Cooperation of the Arab Republic of Egypt since December 2019. Prior to this, Dr. Al-Mashat served as Egypt's Minister of Tourism from 2018 to 2019. Previous positions include Advisor to the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2016 to 2018, Sub-Governor for Monetary Policy at the Central Bank of Egypt from 2005 to 2016, and Senior Economist at the IMF from 2001 to 2005.



**Ms. Kantuta Diana Conde Choque** is an Aymara woman from the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Ms. Conde advocates for indigenous peoples' rights, particularly for the rights for indigenous women and youth and she serves as a member of the LAC Network of Indigenous Youth or *Red de Jóvenes Indígenas de Latino America y el Caribe* (RED-LAC) – a regional platform of indigenous youth -- in UN mechanisms such as the UNPFII. She is also the current Focal Point of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC). Ms. Conde is a law student in the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) and participated in the 2021 International Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy in Columbia University.



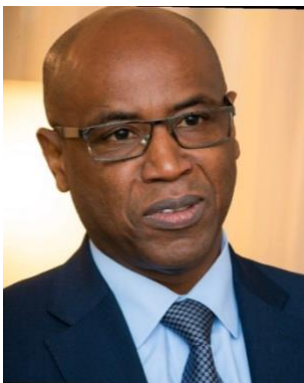
**Ms. Bella Tonkonogy** is U.S. Director at Climate Policy Initiative, an analysis and advisory international non-profit organization working at the nexus of finance and policy for climate change. She oversees research and new initiatives across CPI's climate finance workstreams including investment trends analysis, financial sector alignment and effectiveness, and innovative finance. Bella previously oversaw energy and environment investments at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and was a climate economist at the U.S. EPA and OECD.



**Ms. Eleonora Betancur González** is currently the Director of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia - APC Colombia. Prior to this, Ms. Betancur González served as the director of the Agency for Cooperation and Investment of Medellín and the Metropolitan Area (ACI Medellín) from 2020 to 2022. She has also served as Director of the International Relations Office of the Bogotá Mayor's Office, project coordinator for the European Commission in Latin America, and in academia and research at the UNAM University in Mexico and the Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain.



**H.E. Mr. Munir Akram** is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. Prior to this, Mr. Akram was seventy-sixth President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2020. Mr. Akram previously served as Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York for six years between 2002 and 2008, after serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva for seven years from 1995 to 2002.



**H.E. Mr. Facinet Sylla** is an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He represents 23 African countries, including his own country Guinea. Prior to his appointment at the IMF, Mr. Sylla held various positions at the African Development Bank (AfDB) from 2010-2018. Before this period, he had been the Director of Research, Statistics and International Relations at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea, and he had also worked as Head of the statistics division at the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) in Accra, Ghana.





**Prof. Saleemul Huq** is the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) and also a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED). Prof. Huq was a lead author of the chapter on Adaptation and Sustainable Development in the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and was one of the coordinating lead authors of 'Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation' in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report.



**Ms. Luz Keila Virginia Gramajo Vilchez** is the Secretary of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of Guatemala. Ms. Gramajo Vilchez has served in various capacities in SEGEPLAN since 2012, focusing on International Cooperation. In her previous role, she served as Director of Public Management for Development, SEGEPLAN, where she was responsible for coordination; design and validation of the national planning system; monitoring and evaluation of public policy; preparation of strategic results for budget programming; and the overall alignment with the SDGs.



**Ms. Jennifer del Rosario-Malonzo** is the Executive Director of IBON International, a Southern international non-government organization that engages in capacity development for people's rights and democracy around the world. Prior to holding various roles in IBON International, she served as the Global Coordinator of the Reality of Aid Network, 2010-2015.

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## Day 2: Opening

### Speaker



**Mr. Jonathan Glennie** is the co-founder of Global Nation, a writer and researcher on international development and cooperation. Mr. Glennie was formerly the Director of sustainable development research at Ipsos MORI, a visiting fellow at the International Development Institute at King's College London, and has worked at the Overseas Development Institute, Save the Children UK and Christian Aid. Mr. Glennie is also the author of *The Trouble with Aid: Why Less Could Mean More for Africa and Aid*, *Growth and Poverty*, *The Future of Aid: Global Public Investment*.



**Ms. Pooja Rangaprasad** is Director, Policy and Advocacy, Financing for Development (FfD) at Society for International Development. Ms. Rangaprasad leads and facilitates policy dialogue and advocacy efforts of the Civil Society FfD Group towards UN Member States, with special reference to the UN General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council and the Regional Economic (and Social) Commissions, while also promoting a Southern-led agenda based on human rights, equity and sustainability. Prior to joining SID, Ms. Rangaprasad worked for several years on issues of tax and illicit financial flows at national and global levels, specifically focused on norm-setting processes at the UN.

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## Session III: Building momentum for effective social protection measures



**H.E. Ms. Marta Eugenia Esquivel Rodríguez** is the Executive President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund. Prior to her current post, she served as Costa Rica's Minister of Labour and Social Security. Previously, Ms. Esquivel Rodríguez worked in Costa Rica's General Directorate of Civil Service and the Attorney General's Office and the Costa Rican Institute of Pacific Ports.





**Ms. Beate Andrees** is the Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organisation Office for the United Nations. Prior to this, Ms. Andrees worked as the Chief of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, based at the ILO in Geneva. During her appointment at the ILO, Ms. Andrees has contributed a lot to the launch and consolidation of Alliance 8.7, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, the implementation of the ILO's flagship programme on child labour and forced labour and the launch of the Equal Pay International Coalition.



**Dr. Michael Bröning** is the Executive Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in New York. He was previously Head of the International Policy Analysis Department at FES in Berlin and has directed the foundation in Jordan and Jerusalem. Dr. Bröning has taught Political Science at the Freie Universität in Berlin and was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard University. Dr. Bröning is the founding editor of *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, a trilingual political magazine and has published several books on European and Middle Eastern politics. He is a frequent contributor to English- and German-language media and has testified before the foreign affairs committee of the German Bundestag and at the European Parliament. Dr. Bröning is a member of the Commission for Fundamental Values of the German Social Democratic Party.



**H.E. Mr. Alexei Buzu** is the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. He was previously involved in institutional capacity development initiatives to strengthen results management processes, apply performance measurement systems, promote good governance and gender equality. Mr. Alexei Buzu has been a consultant for several international development organizations in the impact assessment of their programs in areas such as: labor market, economic development, social assistance, demography, education, health, elections, migration, water and sanitation. Alexei provided support and consultancy for projects implemented in Armenia, North Macedonia, Liberia, Zambia, South Africa and Thailand. Mr. Buzu is a promoter of gender equality and inclusion, he advocated for the adoption of several initiatives aimed at: equal participation of women in politics, expanding opportunities for parents to combine professional and family life, preventing and combating sexual harassment.



**H.E. Mrs. Fatou Gueye Diane** is the Minister of Women, Family, and Child Protection, Senegal. She was previously Coordinator of the Promise at the Ministry of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy after important functions at the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning as Director of Regulation and Supervision of Decentralized Financial Services (2017-2021), Technical Adviser to the Director General of Planning and Economic Policies (2014-2017), Adviser to the Director of Forecasting (2014-2017), Head of the Division of Economic Synthesis (2009-2014), and Head of the Division of Economic Studies and Policies. She has advanced degrees from the University of the Mediterranean of Aix-Marseille, France; the Aix Marseille University Paul Cézanne, France; and Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis, Senegal.



**Mr. Mariano Berro González** is the Executive Director of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI). Prior to this, Mr. Berro González served as consultant for international cooperation projects for UNDP, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Union and GIZ of Germany. Mr. Berro González was formerly an adviser on international cooperation in the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



**Mrs. Arunee Hiam** has been working at Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) for more than 20 years to promote development in Thailand and also forging partnerships with countries all over the world to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda. Prior to her current position of Deputy Director-General, she previously held several significant positions namely the Secretary to the Department, the Director of Human Resources Development Bureau, the Director of Partnership for Development Bureau, and the Director of Development Promotion and Coordination Division. Mrs. Hiam earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Public Administration from Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand and a Master's degree in Development Studies from Australian National University, Australia.



**H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda** is the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and also the Vice President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Prior to this, Ms. Narváez Ojeda was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala. Ms. Narváez Ojeda also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020.



**H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver** is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (TBC). Prior to this, Mr. Santos Maraver served as his country's Consul General in Perpignan, France, beginning in 2017, and in Cape Town, South Africa, between 2013 and 2017. From 2011 to 2013, Mr. Santos Maraver was Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva.



**Ms. Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes** is the Assistant Secretary, National Economic Development Authority of Philippines. Ms. Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes is also an Assistant Professor in the University of the Philippines School of Economics, with her PhD in Economics from the University of California Riverside.



## Session IV: Strengthening capacities to overcome the digital divide



**Mr. Chen Chunjiang** is Assistant Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. Prior to this, Mr. Chen Chunjiang was Director-General of the Department of Foreign Investment Administration of the Ministry of Commerce (2021-2022), Director-General of the Department of Trade in Services and Commercial Services of the Ministry of Commerce (2020-2021), Deputy Secretary of the CPC Committee and Mayor of Tianjin Heping District (2017-2020), Member of the CPC Standing Committee and Deputy Mayor of Tianjin Ninghe District (2016-2017), and Deputy Inspector, Deputy Director-General of Tianjin Development and Reform Commission (2012-2016) (during 2013-2015, he also held the post of Director-General of the Development and Reform Commission of Tianjin Binhai New Area).



**Ms. Ursula Wynhoven** is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Representative to the United Nations. Previously, Ursula spent 14 years working for the UN Global Compact, where she served as Chief, Social Sustainability, Governance & Legal and was a member of the office's Executive Committee.



**H.E. Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta** is an environmentalist and the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Delgado Peralta was elected to local congress in 2003. From 2006-2012 she served as Minister of the Environment of Mexico City. During her time as Minister of the Environment, Ms. Delgado Peralta helped to develop environmental policies including Green Plan of Mexico City, the Climate Action Program and a bike sharing program called ECOBICI.



**Ms. Juliette Prodhan** has been Head of Development Policy at the UK FCDO since 2021. She is a humanitarian and development expert, specialising in social protection, nutrition, food security, public health, humanitarian protection, migration, conflict and gender. She was previously Head of EU Policy at the UK Department of International Development from 2017. She has 25 years of international development experience in Asia and Africa, having worked in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, DR Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia, both with NGOs (including Oxfam GB for 13 years) and the UK government. Juliette was educated in the UK at London, Oxford and Cambridge Universities and holds Masters degrees in Development Management and International Relations as well as in English Literature. Her most recent qualification is a Postgraduate Certificate in Security and Strategy for Global Leaders (2020).



**Ms. Sonia Jorge** is the Founder and Executive Director, Strategy and Partnerships of the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership. Ms. Jorge has close to 30 years of diverse international experience in both the private and not-for-profit sectors. As a policy advisor, Ms. Jorge has led numerous digital policy and development projects in several countries and with international and regional organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, private sector companies, from mobile operators to industry associations, among others.



**H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj** is India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Ms. Kamboj has previously served as High Commissioner of India to South Africa, First female Indian Ambassador to Bhutan and Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Paris. Ms. Kamboj was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch and the topper of the 1987 Foreign Service batch.