

62ND SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

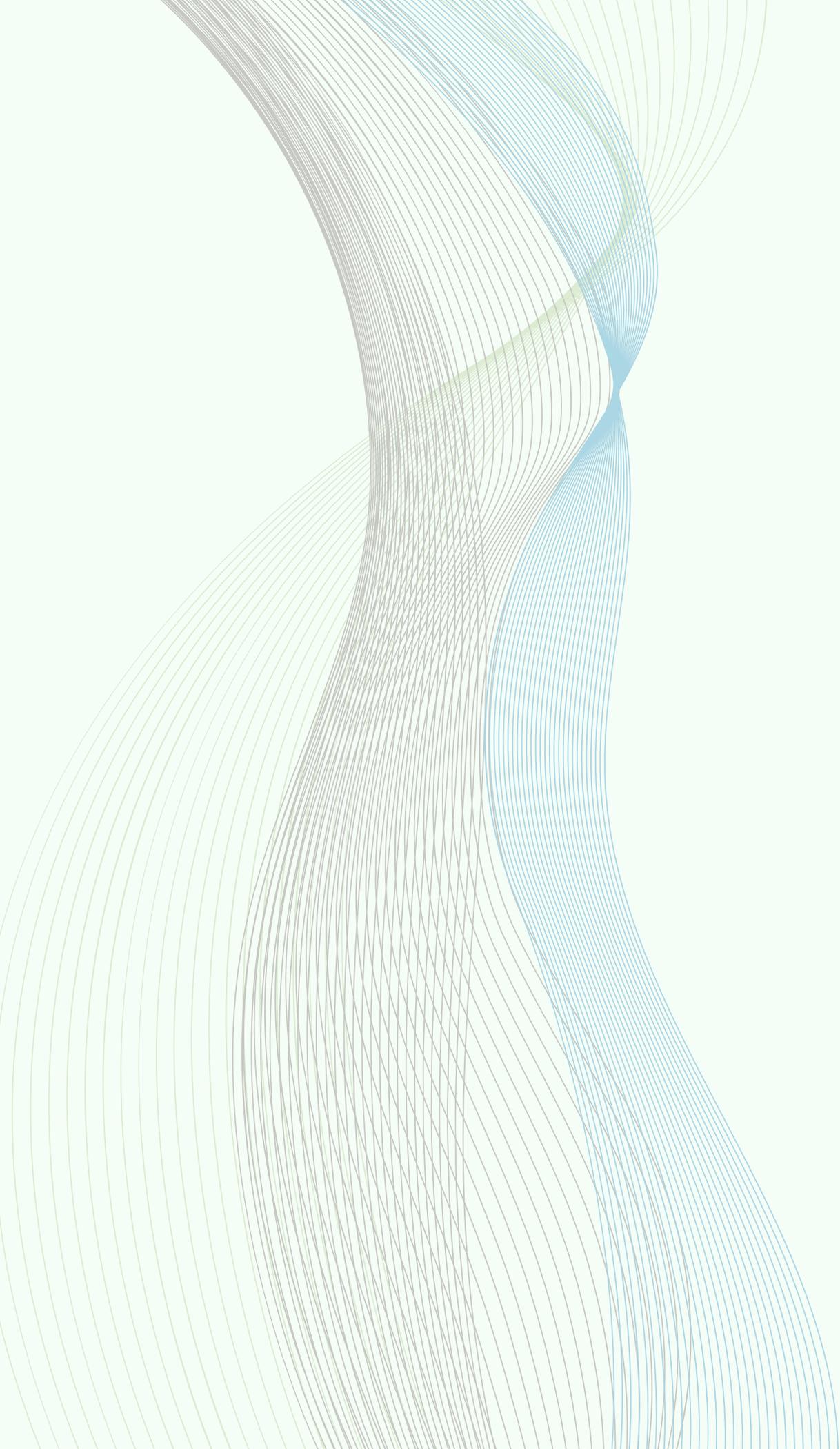
# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2024



February 9, 2024

UNHQ, NY, Conference Room 4

@NGO\_CsocD  
ngosocdev.org 



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# VISION

Guided by the principles of the **Copenhagen Declaration**, we are continuing a vision of a world without poverty—one of true prosperity, inclusion, and justice for all.

## 10 COMMITMENTS

of the Copenhagen Declaration  
for Social Development

- ✱ Creating an enabling environment
- ✱ Eradicating poverty
- ✱ Promoting full employment
- ✱ Promoting social integration
- ✱ Achieving equality and equity between women and men
- ✱ Accessing health and education services
- ✱ Accelerating development in Africa & in LDCs
- ✱ Including Social Development Goals in SAs
- ✱ Allocating resources for Social Development
- ✱ Cooperating for Social Development



## MISSION

As members of civil society, we will work towards the **World Social Summit (2025)**; we seek to engage NGOs through the work of the Commission for Social Development, highlighting best practices, and bringing diversity of voices to the United Nations.



inclusion • consultative • value driven • respect  
participation • collaboration • partnership

## VALUES





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# WELCOME TO THE **CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2024**

On behalf of the NGO Committee for Social Development, **welcome to the 2024 Civil Society Forum!** Since 2006, this Forum has been a space for members of civil society to gather to learn, discuss, and strategize on the themes and deliberations of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD). We are optimistic about our current and future possibilities for collaboration with the United Nations and all Member States.

We, the NGO Committee on Social Development, are guided by **the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development principles and its Program for Action, along with the 2030 Agenda**. As members of civil society, we know first-hand from the grassroots how fostering social inclusion, justice for all, social development, eradicating poverty, and promoting human dignity are necessary to advance in this midpoint the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration and the 2030 Agenda. This year's theme for the 62nd Commission for Social Development is particularly timely and important in this regard, especially as we look forward to the upcoming Summits at the UN.

At the midpoint of our way to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals, it is clear that the global community is failing to live up to the commitments it had made in 2015. Our social contract has been broken by extreme poverty and hunger, intersectional discriminations, profound gaps in social protection, persistent and devastating gender inequalities and disparities, economic instability, the climate crisis, the widening digital divide, global migration, the threat of nuclear war, the global cost of living crisis, the "care crisis".

This is the time to rethink our whole approach to society, to accept and implement social change and transformation. People want more responsive action to address these key challenges. Today, we need to envision a different kind of world. We need leadership to establish a renewed social contract integrating social, economic, environmental and political justice at both national and international levels. These are the pillars of international peace, prosperity and security.

We are pleased to share with you the NGO Committee on Social Development's Civil Society Declaration, which is included in different languages at the back of this program. Our Declaration not only addresses the issues related to CSocD62 but also highlights civil society's commitment to building upon the fundamental principles of the Copenhagen Declaration. In our call-to-action, we share tangible and cross-cutting recommendations that can make our vision of a world of true prosperity without poverty, inclusion, and justice for all a reality.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the lives of our planet's most vulnerable people and ensuring that "no one is left behind." On behalf of the **NGO Committee for Social Development and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York office**, thank you so much for attending. We hope that this Forum is informative, interesting, and impactful for you.



**Jean Quinn, DW**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean".

Chair of the Executive  
Committee,  
NGO Committee for Social  
Development



**Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Despoina Afroditi Milaki".

Chair of the Civil Society  
Forum,  
NGO Committee for Social  
Development



# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM PROGRAM

The Civil Society Forum has been planned by the NGO Committee on Social Development in joint sponsorship with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York Office and the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Forum has been organized for Civil Society participants to engage with various experts with different perspectives on the priority theme of the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development: ***“Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”***.

The purpose of this space is to create an inclusive dialogue between Civil Society, the United Nations, Member States, and other stakeholders aiming to foster cooperation and to unify behind a common vision of furthering the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration. Forging new leadership is essential to establish a renewed social commitment integrating social, economic, environmental and political justice. At a time of great inequality in the world, the Civil Society Forum is a space where stakeholders are invited to discuss how to accelerate action for a more equitable, just, and sustainable future.

The Forum will feature governmental, service, and lived experiences from all over the world, gathered here to share their successes, challenges, and recommendations for tackling structural barriers, reimagining transformative policies to social justice and highlighting approaches that place people, rights and justice at the center of social development.

62nd Commission for Social Development  
Civil Society Forum  
**OPENING PANEL**  
Friday, February 9, 2024  
UNHQ Conference Room 4 | 9:00 am – 10:00 am EST

## PANELISTS

**Jean Quinn, DW** – Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development,  
Executive Director of UNANIMA International

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**H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj** - Ambassador, Chair of the CSocD62 Bureau,  
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

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**Mr. Li Junhua** - United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and  
Social Affairs

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**Dr. Felipe Paullier** - United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth  
Affairs

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**Mr. John Wilmoth** - Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Inclusive Social  
Development, UNDESA

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**Mr. Danilo Türk** - President of Club de Madrid, Former President of Slovenia

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**Dr. Michael Bröning** - Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung-New York  
Office

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## MODERATOR

**Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki** – Chair of the Civil Society Forum, UN  
Representative for International Presentation Association

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62nd Commission for Social Development  
Civil Society Forum  
THEMATIC SESSION I

**STRUCTURAL SOCIAL BARRIERS AND TRANSFORMATIVE POLICIES TO SOCIAL PROGRESS**

Friday, February 9, 2024  
UNHQ Conference Room 4 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am EST

**PANELISTS**

**H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen** - Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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**Mr. Patrik Andersson** - Chief, Social Policy Analysis Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

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**Ms. Barbara Adams** - Senior Policy Analyst, Global Policy Forum

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**Ms. Lydia Stazen** - Executive Director of the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness, DePaul University

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**Prof. Haroon Borat** - Director, Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU), School of Economics, University of Cape Town

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**NGOs Grassroots Voices** (video)

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**MODERATOR**

**Ms. Anita Thomas** - Chair of the NGO Financing for Development

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62nd Commission for Social Development  
Civil Society Forum

# NETWORKING SESSION

Friday, February 9, 2024

UNHQ Vienna Cafe/Conference Room 4 | 11:30 am – 1:15 pm EST

**Reception** - (light lunch offered by NGOCSocD) next to Vienna Cafe  
| 11:30 am - 12:10 pm

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**Networking and collaborative opportunities** in Conference Room 4  
| 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

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62nd Commission for Social Development  
Civil Society Forum  
THEMATIC SESSION II

**PLACING PEOPLE, RIGHTS AND JUSTICE AT THE CENTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:  
A NEEDS-BASED APPROACH FOR PEOPLE-CENTERED DECISIONS**

Friday, February 9, 2024  
UNHQ Conference Room 4 | 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm EST

**PANELISTS**

**H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias** - Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal at the UN

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**Dr. Katriona O’Sullivan** - Digital Skills Lecturer, Assisting Living and Learning Institute, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University

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**Ms. Le Wang** - UN Representative, Executive Director US Global Advocacy Inc, Save the Children

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**Ms. Vidya Diwaker** - Deputy Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

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**Mr. Ananda Lee Tan** - Strategy Advisor, Just Transition Alliance

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**Ms. Grace Chikumo** - President, Habitat International Coalition

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**Ms. Alexia Gaube** - Main Representative to the United Nations, Life Project 4 Youth

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**MODERATOR**

**Ms. Wenyan Yang** - Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, UN DESA DISD

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62nd Commission for Social Development  
Civil Society Forum

# CLOSING SESSION

Friday, February 9, 2024  
UNHQ Conference Room 4 | 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm EST

## PANELISTS

**Ms. Wenyan Yang** - Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch,  
UN DESA DISD

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**Jean Quinn, DW** – Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development,  
Executive Director of UNANIMA International

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**Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki** – Chair of the Civil Society Forum, UN  
Representative for International Presentation Association

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# BIOGRAPHIES



## JEAN QUINN, DW

Jean Quinn, DW is a member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. She is a Nurse by Profession, studied Family Therapy, Addiction Studies as well as Social Housing Studies with the Irish Council for Social Housing. She also Studied Theology and Philosophy with Milltown Institute in Dublin. As well as holding many Congregational and Professional leadership roles throughout her career she has been actively involved in International Social Justice through a range of facets for many years. Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin and is the Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland. Her vision and leadership brought strength and growth to Sophia, which is now celebrating its 25th year as an organization committed to providing a holistic approach in supporting people, specifically women and children on their journey from Homelessness. Jean was a member of the UNANIMA International Board in 2016 and completed an internship that year also. Since joining the UNANIMA International Team as the Executive Director in 2017, Jean's passion for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation have continuously been utilized in her international advocacy. Through this role, she sits as the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development and was a former Co-Chair of the Working Group to End Homelessness.

## H.E. RUCHIRA KAMBOJ

Ruchira Kamboj assumed the position of Ambassador / Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York on 2 August 2022. She is the first lady diplomat from India to assume this position. Ruchira Kamboj was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Batch of the Indian Civil Services and the topper of the 1987 Batch of the Indian Foreign Service. She has a number of firsts to her credit, being the first lady diplomat to be appointed as India's Chief of Protocol and the first lady to be appointed as India's Ambassador to Bhutan. Prior to her present charge at the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj served as India's Ambassador to Bhutan (2019-2022), High Commissioner to South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho (2017-2019) and Ambassador/PR to UNESCO, Paris (2014-2017). She has also served at Indian Missions in Port Louis, New York and Cape Town as well as the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. She is married, with a daughter. She speaks Hindi, English and French.





## LI JUNHUA

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 25 July 2022 the appointment of Li Junhua of China as the next Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He will succeed Liu Zhenmin of China to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his commitment and dedicated service to the Organization. Mr. Li brings to the position perspectives and visions on fostering multilateral economic and social cooperation, with a commitment to engage with all parties to further implement the 2030 Agenda including dedication to serve member states. He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 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. He is currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. Prior to this, he was Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (2013-2019). Mr. Li began his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1985. Since then, he has served in various capacities, including as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Myanmar (2010-2012), Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (2008-2010), Minister Counselor (Political), Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2003-2008), Division Director and Counselor in charge of UN General Assembly and Security Council Affairs (2001-2003), Second and First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nation (1997-2001). Third and Second Secretary, the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (1992-1997) and Assistant to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of China to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (1986-1992). Mr. Li has a Master's in International Public Policy, School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University. He speaks Chinese and English.

## DR. FELIPE PAULLIER



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Felipe Paullier of Uruguay as the first Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs. The United Nations Youth Office was established by the General Assembly to lead the engagement and advocacy for the advancement of youth issues across the United Nations and to promote the meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the work of the United Nations. Dr. Paullier assumed his mandate as head of the UN Youth Office in December 2023. Dr. Paullier was formerly the Director General of the National Youth Institute of Uruguay, a position he held since 2020. He previously served in various political management positions, including as Deputy Mayor in the Municipality of the CH jurisdiction of Montevideo (2015-2020) and Alternate Counsellor in the Montevideo Departmental Legislative Court (2010-2015). He served as a Clinical Doctor and Pediatric Resident Physician at Pereira Rossell Pediatric Hospital (2017-2020), a Medical Intern in the Administración Nacional de Servicios de Salud del Estado (2015-2016) and as a Research Assistant in the Clinical Research Organization, BdBeq CRO (2012-2014). Dr. Paullier is a Medical Doctor specialized in Pediatrics. He graduated from the School of Medicine of the Universidad de la Republica Oriental de Uruguay and is currently completing a Master in Business Administration at the Universidad Católica de Uruguay. He is fluent in English and Spanish.



## JOHN WILMOTH

Mr. John Wilmoth is the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Inclusive Social Development. He joined the United Nations following a distinguished academic career, lastly as Professor at the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley. He has also previously served in the Population Division as Chief of the Mortality Section from 2005 to 2007 and is currently the Director of the Population Division. Mr. Wilmoth is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers examining various aspects of population dynamics and population issues, including the causes of the historical decline of human mortality, prospects for future trends in life expectancy, the impact of population ageing on public pension and healthcare systems, popular perceptions of population growth and its consequences, and methodologies for estimating and projecting demographic trends. Mr. Wilmoth has also served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the World Bank from 2009 to 2012, leading the development of new global estimates of maternal mortality. He is a member of the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. He also serves on the editorial boards of some leading demographic journals including *Demographic Research* and the *European Journal of Population*.

## DANILO TÜRK



Danilo Türk is a former President of Slovenia. He is also currently serving as the President of Club de Madrid. He graduated from the University of Ljubljana in 1975 with a degree in law and later obtained his PhD with a thesis on the principle of non-intervention in international law in 1982. President Türk became Director of the Institute on International Law at the University of Ljubljana in 1983. He was a member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a UN body of independent experts. In that capacity he served, between 1986 and 1992, as the UN Special Rapporteur on the realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 1990-1991, Türk took part in the drafting of the Constitution of Slovenia by preparing the draft chapter related to human rights and fundamental freedoms. From 1992 to 2000, he became the first Slovene Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, and represented Slovenia on the UN Security Council in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, he was invited by Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General, to serve as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (2000-2005). In 2005, he returned to Slovenia as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana. He was elected as President in 2007 as an independent, being supported by several political parties. Dr. Türk chaired the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace between 2015 and 2016, which published the report "A Matter of Survival" (2017). In 2016, he was one of the candidates for the post of the Secretary-General of the UN. Since 2013, has been a Member of Club de Madrid and, in October 2019, he was elected by the General Assembly as the organization's President for the period 2020-2025. In 2022, Türk was named one of the 12 Eminent individuals invited to be part of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism Comprises, which will be asked to build on the ideas in Our Common Agenda to make concrete suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues.



## DR. MICHAEL BRÖNING

Michael Bröning is the Executive Director of the FES office 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. Michael holds a Doctorate in Economics and Social Sciences and a Masters in History. He has taught Political Science at the Freie Universität in Berlin and was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard University. Michael is the founding editor of *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, a tri-lingual political magazine and has published seven books on European and Middle Eastern politics including “Lob der Nation” (currently in its third edition) and “The Politics of Change in Palestine”, short-listed for the Palestine Book Award. His PhD thesis on German-Israeli relations was awarded the Herbert-Wehner-Grant. Michael is a frequent contributor to English- and German-language media, including Foreign Affairs, Politico, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, and writes a monthly column on global politics for the Berlin-based Der Tagesspiegel. Michael has testified before the foreign affairs committee of the German Bundestag and at the European Parliament and has appeared in Foreign Policy, The Economist, The Times, BBC world, ABC Australia, 3Sat Kulturzeit, and on the German radio. Michael is a member of the Commission for Fundamental Values of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD).

## DR. DESPOINA AFRODITI MILAKI

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki is the NGO Representative at the UN for the International Presentation Association (IPA); a Non-Governmental Organization with presence in 20 countries focusing on the rights of women and children, care of the earth and indigenous and tribal peoples and embracing the Sustainable Development Goals. She earned her Ph.D. in Germany in International Politics. For over ten years she provided policy advice to senior government officials in Greece on International Relations topics. She was also an external consultant at a Law Firm in Uganda, monitoring and keeping ahead of UN advocacy opportunities. Dr. Milaki is the co-founder of the PraxisBonum global database on good practices, which provides an easily-searchable repository of projects, policies, and activities that have been effectively implemented in various areas at the local, national and international levels. As the current Chair of the 2024 Civil Society Forum, she works with UN departments, agencies and UN Member States, along with civil society stakeholders to bring the voices of civil society to the UN Commission for Social Development. In August 2023 she was a member of the UN Expert Group which examined the need for a new, integrated social development framework in accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main outcomes of the expert meeting are a set of concrete policy-oriented recommendations that would inform the report of the Secretary-General being prepared for the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development.





## H.E. FERGAL MYTHEN

The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Fergal Mythen, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 26 August 2022. Since taking up duty in New York, he represented Ireland on the Security Council for the final phase of our two-year term as an elected member, which concluded on 31 December 2022; in addition, together with Qatar, he co-facilitated the drafting of the High Level Political Declaration on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which was adopted by consensus by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2023. Prior to his current appointment, Fergal spent considerable periods of his career working for the Government of Ireland in support of the Northern Ireland peace process and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement – working for the International Fund for Ireland (1990-92), on Justice & Security issues (1999-2003 and 2005-07), and on Northern Ireland political affairs (2007-09). Most recently, as Director-General of the Ireland, UK and Americas Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2022, he led the Departmental team working on Northern Ireland peace process issues, Irish-British relations (including the impact of Brexit), and Irish-US relations. Between 2013 and 2017, Fergal was Director-General of the Department's Corporate Services Division, with responsibility for human resources, finance, ICT, property management, and corporate governance and compliance issues. He has twice served in the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels, covering two Irish EU Council Presidencies, firstly as Middle East / North Africa Attaché from 2003 to 2005, and as Coreper II Counsellor from 2009 to 2013. Earlier in his career, in 1996-97, Fergal was seconded to the European Community Monitoring Mission in the former Yugoslavia, based in Sarajevo, BiH. He was Director of the Department's Human Rights Unit from 1997 to 1999. Fergal also served as Consular Officer in the Embassy of Ireland to Italy, Rome, from 1992 to 1996. Born in 1968, Fergal studied History and English in Trinity College Dublin and Business Studies in University College Dublin.

## PATRIK ANDERSSON



Mr. Andersson joined UNDESA in early 2023 as Chief of the Social Policy Analysis Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development. He previously worked for 12 years as Section Chief at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok where he was responsible for policymaking and research related to LNOB, inequality and social protection. During the past 30 years, Mr. Andersson has worked extensively on a wide range of social development areas and labour market issues. Some of his prior assignments include six years with OECD in Paris as well as different positions in the Swedish Government.

## BARBARA ADAMS



Barbara Adams is Senior Policy Analyst with Global Policy Forum and part-time faculty member at the New School. Trained as an economist, Barbara Adams' experience and expertise have many facets – as a researcher and teacher, as a CSO policy advocate, and with a long tenure working for the United Nations. 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. She has been the author of a chapter in the Routledge UN Handbook and guest editor for a special edition of the Journal Development. Publications include: Accounting for Africa at the United Nations: A Guide for Non-Governmental Organizations; Putting Gender on the Agenda; 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.



## LYDIA STAZEN

Lydia Stazen is the Executive Director at the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and currently has the honor of serving as Chair of the United Nations NGO Working Group to End Homelessness. Lydia has worked at the intersections of housing, employment, higher education, gender equity, and policy advocacy for nearly 20 years. Lydia holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy.

## PROF. HAROON BHORAT



Haroon Borhat is Professor of Economics and Director of the Development Policy Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. He serves on the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC), and holds a SARCHI Chair in Economic Growth, Poverty and Inequality Research. He is a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; a Research Fellow at IZA; and a member of the UCT College of Fellows. Prof. Borhat sits on the World Bank Economic Review editorial advisory board, and is a board member of UNU-WIDER and the National Research Foundation. He also sits on the UN/WHO's High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. He served as an economic advisor to two past Ministers of Finance, and previous Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe, formally serving on the Presidential Economic Advisory Panel. He has his PhD in Economics through Stellenbosch University, studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was a Cornell University research fellow.

MODERATOR



## ANITA THOMAS

Anita Thomas is the Chair of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a Substantive Committee of CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations--an NGO in General Consultative Status), and UN Representative for Women First International Fund, an NGO in ECOSOC Consultative Status, with a unique grantmaking model designed specifically to support and partner with new and emerging grassroots women-led organizations in countries where gender inequities remain pervasive. She serves as the Convener of the NGO Coalition to advance ratification of ILO C-190 convened by five NGO Committees, based in New York, (FFD, Status of Women, Social Development, Migration, and Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons). Her professional experience spans over twenty years with both domestic and international NGOs. She holds an M.S. in Finance from the Simon School of Business, University of Rochester, an MPAP from the Bloustein School of Public Policy, Rutgers University, and an M.A. in Economics from Madras Christian College, India. She is a Fellow of the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.



## H.E. ANA PAULA ZACARIAS

Ana Paula Zacarias was born in Lisbon in 1959. She has a degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Lisbon (1983). She was an assistant at the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova de Lisboa until 1985. She entered the Portuguese Diplomatic Service in 1983 and held several assignments: to the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1984-1985); as Junior Counsellor for International Relations at the Office of the President of the Republic (1986-1988); as Director of Press and Information Department (1996-1998) and as Vice President of the Instituto Camões (1998-2000). As a career diplomat she also served at different Diplomatic Missions such as the Embassy of Portugal in the USA (1988-1993); as Consul in Curitiba (1993-1996); as Deputy Permanent Representative in the delegation of Portugal to the UNESCO in Paris (2000-2005); as the first resident Ambassador of Portugal to Estonia (2005-2008) and as Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the European Union (2009-2011). From 2011 to 2015 she was Head of Delegation of the EU Delegation in Brazil and from 2015 until July 2017 Head of Delegation of the EU Delegation to Colombia and Ecuador. On July 2017, she was appointed as Secretary of State for European Affairs, and served in this position until March 2022. Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations on 17 May 2022.

## DR. KATRIONA O'SULLIVAN

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan is an associate professor in the faculty of science in Maynooth University, a psychologist and memoirist. Her first book, *Poor*, debuted at #1 on the Irish Non-Fiction bestseller list. As one of 5 children in a home shaped by her parents' heroin addiction, Katriona's story chronicles her journey from poverty, teenage pregnancy, homelessness to graduating with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin and becoming an award-winning lecturer whose work challenges barriers to education.



## LE WANG

With over 16 years of senior management and leadership experience in the International Development and private sector, Le Wang has built strong leadership skills and a proven track record strategic and operational achievements, especially in new business development and adaptation in the fast-changing social environment. Throughout different roles, she led teams for humanitarian response at the front line and had high-level representation with national ministries and at the UN chapel for policy lobbying, including sensitive topics. Le Wang loves challenging tasks and like to achieve results with a team together. She is passionate about systematically and sustainably bringing innovative solutions to social challenges with children and local stakeholders. Her expertise focuses on child rights, inclusion, and humanitarian from the professional knowledge. Le Wang's work and life experience across Asia, Africa and Europe has fostered her ability to thrive in a multi-culture environment.



## VIDYA DIWAKER

Vidya Diwaker (Deputy Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network; Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies) is a mixed-methods researcher and policy analyst whose work focuses on gender-disaggregated drivers of poverty escapes, and the role of armed conflict and intersecting crises in creating poverty traps. She has authored and reviewed a range of reports, book chapters and journal articles, including recently as Guest Editor for a special issue of *World Development*. Vidya has successfully fundraised for and led a range of large multi-partner, multi-year policy-oriented research projects on poverty dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and South East Asia for international organizations and bi-lateral aid agencies.

## ANANDA LEE TAN



Ananda Lee Tan has been organizing grassroots movements since 1986 - building coalitions, networks and alliances for land defense, *environmental justice*, worker rights, *energy democracy*, food sovereignty, *zero waste*, labor rights and *just transition*, serving frontline communities and workers around the world. Over the years, Ananda has served networks like *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives*, *Indigenous Climate Action* and the *Indigenous Environmental Network*, and co-founded the *Climate Justice Alliance*, a network of frontline communities organizing a Just Transition away from the global, colonial extractive economy.

He co-convened the international People's Climate March in 2014, and brought together the *Building Equity and Alignment for Impact*, an initiative aimed at shifting philanthropic resources and centering the leadership of Black, Brown, Indigenous, Migrant and Poor communities on the frontlines of ecological crises. Ananda lives on unceded Coast Salish territories in the Pacific Northwest, and serves as an advisor, facilitator, strategist and guide for the *Just Transition Alliance*, *Indigenous Food & Freedom School*, *Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors* and the *Labor Network for Sustainability*.



## GRACE CHIKUNO

Grace Chikuno – Mtonga is the president of the Habitat International Coalition. A development expert, she holds a licentiate in Economic Finance for Chartered Accountants, a Bachelors' degree in Development Studies, a Masters Degree in Economic Policy Management and a Certificate in Community led governance. Grace has worked as an auditor and Housing specialist in the housing discourse. She has led a series of campaigns on land and housing rights in Zambia and in the sub-region. She played a key role in lobbying for the creation of a separate Ministry for housing in Zambia, for housing to be recognised as a sector. Her lobby and advocacy interventions and influence contributed to the creation of the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure in 2016. Grace is part of the National Development Coordinating Committee of Zambia a body that monitors and analyzes milestones achieved in relation to the implementation of the national development plans and also sits on two parliamentary committees which discuss policy implementation and provides recommendations that would enhance both policy formulation, service delivery including systems and practices.



## ALEXIA GAUBE

Alexia Gaube is the Main UN Representative for Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y), an international movement of local organisations that develops innovative solutions for the professional and social inclusion of excluded Youth living in extreme poverty. After achieving Management Degrees, she worked as a Strategy Consultant in the water industry, and supported different initiatives related to sustainable women empowerment and local community support. She joined LP4Y in 2021, working from the slums in India and the Philippines. Alongside corporates in Asia, she implemented Youth professional inclusion initiatives. She managed a training center that empowered young people and raised awareness among their community. Empowered by grassroots campaigns, she advocates for the socioeconomic inclusion of underrepresented Young people at different international events and recently hosted a knowledge-sharing forum in New York.

## WENYAN YANG

Ms. Wenyan Yang is Chief of Global Dialogue for Development Branch in the Division for Inclusive Social Development of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She has extensive experience working on a broad range of sustainable development issues. Her current work focuses on the social dimension of the sustainable development agenda, addressing poverty, inequality and social inclusion to advance the wellbeing of all people through research and policy analysis, and technical support for national capacity development. Ms. Yang leads the team that coordinates substantive support to the UN Commission for Social Development and contributes to the publication *World Social Report*. She also serves as DESA's Principle Focal Point for Gender. An economist by training, she started her UN career as a macroeconomic policy analyst.



# CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION 2024

**Social Justice** - Invest in human capital and ensure the dignity and the wellbeing of individuals and families through transformative social policies and programs.

**Economic Justice** - Reform existing global financial structures and reaffirm existing commitments to address global economic inequalities based on solidarity.

**Environmental Justice** - Ensure that all people have equal access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment, as well as fair protection from environmental hazards and risks.

**Political Justice** - Ensure the protection of all human rights, including the right to participate in civil and political life, without discrimination, as well as to equal protection under the law to eradicate poverty.

ENGLISH



FRANÇAIS



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The NGO Committee for Social Development wishes to acknowledge our sponsors' and volunteers' valuable contribution to the success of this year's Forum. Thank you all for your collaboration and willingness to welcome others into the UN and civil society spaces. We are forever indebted to each and every one of you!

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