

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Bios of Speakers

Interactive Dialogue with Senior Officials of the UN System on the Priority Theme

How to improve mainstreaming of social considerations in development frameworks?

Thursday, 8 February, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Conference room 4

Moderator:

Ms. Maria Francesca
Spatolisano



Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). She also served in her personal capacity as the Officer-in-Charge and then as the Acting Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology between February 2021 and July 2022.

Ms. Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. She has served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section, covering all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC; she also represented the EC to the Fifth Committee. Before joining the UN, she was responsible for International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in several international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20. Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law from Florence University, where she then was an assistant professor in public and constitutional law.

Mr. Gilbert HOUNGBO



Mr. Gilbert HOUNGBO is the Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO). Gilbert F. HOUNGBO was born in Togo in 1961 and has spent much of his life working to improve the prospects of the world's most vulnerable people, using his extensive experience in policy issues, economic development, diplomacy and financial accountability. Following an advanced degree in business management from the University of Lomé (Togo), Gilbert F. HOUNGBO obtained a degree in accounting and finance from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (Canada). He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants.

Gilbert F. HOUNGBO joined Price Waterhouse in Canada in 1986 and worked with them until 1993. Between 1994 and 1996 he served as Director of Finance at the International Bank of Mali, before moving to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) where he held several posts, including as Head of Financial Reporting and Trust Fund Management, Comptroller and Director of Finance and Administration, Chief of Staff, and Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Africa. In 2008, Gilbert F. HOUNGBO was asked to serve as Prime Minister of Togo, a position he held until 2012. He returned to the United Nations system in 2013 as Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships at the International Labour Office. In 2017 he was elected as the sixth President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and in 2021 he was re-elected to the post. Gilbert F. HOUNGBO chairs the Board of the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and is a board member of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).

In March 2022 Gilbert F. HOUNGBO was elected by the ILO's Governing Body as the Organization's 11th Director-General, becoming the first African to hold the position, and took up the role on 1 October 2022. He is focusing his mandate on promoting greater social justice, fighting inequalities and discrimination in the world of work and achieving better working conditions both through national action and by building more effective multilateral coordination and leadership. To bring this about, he is placing special emphasis on universal social protection, decent work in global supply chains and in the platform economy, the fight against child and forced labour, protecting the rights of migrant workers, promoting social dialogue and freedom of association, ensuring just transitions and attaining gender equality.

Ms. Tatiana Molcean



Ms. Tatiana Molcean of Moldova is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Ms. Molcean brought to the position twenty years of experience in the public sector with extensive international cooperation and development experience, and in-depth knowledge and expertise across the entire ECE membership. She served as State Secretary and Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Bilateral Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (2017-2020), Deputy Director General for European Integration and Head of the Division for Economic and Sector Cooperation with the European Union (2012-2017) and Head of the Division for Economic Cooperation and Sectorial Coordination at the General Directorate for European Integration (2004-2008).

A career diplomat, she has also served as Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Sweden (2008-2011). Ms. Molcean holds a LLM Degree in Law from the Faculty of International Law at Moldova State University and completed the Multilateral Diplomacy Program from the Graduate Institute of Geneva, Switzerland. She is fluent in Romanian, English and Russian, with advanced knowledge of French.

**Ms. Armida Salsiah
Alisjahbana**



Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP).

Prior to joining ESCAP, Ms. Alisjahbana was Professor of Economics at Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung, Indonesia. Since 2016, she has served as Director for the Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies at Universitas Padjadjaran and Vice Chair of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences. She also serves on the Governing Board of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, and member of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences, the Forum of Statistics Community (Forum Masyarakat Statistik or Advisory Council of the Indonesian Statistics), the International Advisory Board of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies and Council Member of the Regional Science Association International.

From 2009 to 2014, she was Minister of National Development Planning and the Head of the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia. She served as Co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation from 2012 to 2014. From 2009 to 2014, she was Alternate Governor of the World Bank and Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank representing the government of Indonesia. In 2016, she was a member of the High Level Independent Team of Advisors to support the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer term positioning of the United Nations Development System in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Ms. Alisjahbana has been involved in various research projects and consultancies to the United Nations University/Institute for Advanced Study in Tokyo, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, the Australian Agency for International Development, the European Commission, and the International Labor Organization. Ms. Alisjahbana earned her Bachelor degree in Economics and Development Studies from Universitas Indonesia, a Masters degree in Economics from Northwestern University, USA and a Ph.D in Economics from University of Washington, USA. She was awarded the Mahaputra Adipradana Order (Bintang Mahaputra Adipradana) from the Republic of Indonesia, honorary brevet from the Indonesian Navy and honorary flight wing from the Indonesian Air Force.

Ms. Mehrinaz El Awady



Ms. Mehrinaz El Awady is the Leader of Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster. She previously served as Director for the ESCWA Centre for Women. Prior to that, she was ESCWA Senior SWAP Coordinator, in charge of mainstreaming gender within the organization. She has a long record in development organization and management at the grassroots and the policy levels. Prior to her career as an International Civil Servant, she was the Youth and Women Regional Advisor for Save the Children, where she conducted research, situation analysis and proposal development on gender related and human rights issues in the Arab world.

Before joining Save the Children, Ms. El Awady worked for several international development organizations including the Education Development Center, the Center for Development and Population Activities, and Care International. Ms. El Awady holds a Bachelor in Economics from Cairo University, a Masters in International Development from the American University in Cairo, and a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Leeds, UK.

Her current research areas include, combating violence against women, and gender justice, and social and economic inequalities in the Arab region.

Mr. Saurabh Sinha



Mr. Saurabh Sinha is the Chief of Social Policy Section - Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division in UN ECA. Saurabh Sinha has a PhD from IDS Sussex and more than 25 years of economic research and policy advisory experience.

As the Chief of Social Policy at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) since 2015, Saurabh leads the Commission's work on poverty and inequality reduction, employment, social protection, demography, migration, health, education and skills, and youth in Africa. Prior to joining ECA, Saurabh worked with UNDP in the Asia-Pacific region as Senior Economic Advisor in Mongolia (2011-2015), Chief Technical Advisor in Viet Nam (2003-2005), and with UN Mission in Afghanistan (2005-2007). He has been a consultant to UNDP in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Sri Lanka; and Asian Development Bank, World Bank and bilateral donors. In 2021-23, Saurabh was on secondment to UNDP Afghanistan as Head of Policy Unit, where he led the research and analytical work to support policy engagement with the Taliban administration after the collapse of the elected government in August 2021.

Saurabh is the lead author of a number of publications both in Africa and Asia-Pacific and at various times has taught development economics at Sussex University; National Economics University, Hanoi; and IIT, Delhi.

Mr. Rodrigo Martinez



Mr. Rodrigo Martinez is a Senior Social Affairs Officer of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC.

He is a Chilean Sociologist with more than thirty years of experience in research and technical assistance in social policy institutions and management, social protection, social spending, hunger and malnutrition.

His latest publications include: “Social policy institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean: central axis to advance towards inclusive social development”; “Automation and labor inclusion in Latin America: potential impacts, vulnerabilities and public policy proposals”; “Stratification and social classes in Latin America: dynamics and characteristics in the first two decades of the 21st century”; “Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: Towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”; “Inclusion and urban mobility with a focus on human rights and gender equality”; “Proposal for measuring public investment in children and adolescents: application in three countries: Chile, Costa Rica and Peru”; “Social and economic impact of the double burden of malnutrition”; “Inclusive social protection in Latin America. A comprehensive, rights- based approach”.