



High Level Political Forum 2019

Theme: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

9 July 2019, 1.15-2.30pm
Conference Room 1, UNHQ

'Confronting ageism and empowering older people to ensure social, economic and political inclusion of all'

Programme

- Welcome
Ms Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief of Programme on Ageing, UNDESA
- Moderation
Mr Paul Ladd, Director of UNRISD
- Keynote
Ms Ashton Applewhite, author of *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*

Panellists

- **Ambassador Martin Garcia Moritán**, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations
- **Ms Nasly Bernal Prada**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations
- **Mr Elie Mugabowishema**, Executive Director and founder of NSINDAGIZA in Rwanda
- **Ms Karoline Schmid**, Chief of the Fertility and Family Planning Section of the UNDESA Population Division
- **Ms Moana Genevey**, Equinet, European Network of Equality Bodies
- **Closing remarks: Ms Erica Dhar** SGA Co -Chair

Speaker Biographies

ASHTON APPLEWHITE is an expert on ageism, recognized by, among others, the New York Times, the New Yorker, National Public Radio, and the American Society on Aging. She blogs at [This Chair Rocks](#), speaks widely at venues that have ranged from the United Nations to the [TED mainstage](#), has written for Harper's, the Guardian, and the New York Times, and is the voice of [Yo, Is This Ageist?](#) The author of **This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism**, Ashton is a leading spokesperson for a movement to mobilize against discrimination on the basis of age.

NASLY BERNAL PRADO, Delegate of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations New York is the First Secretary of the Foreign Service of Chile. During her diplomatic career, Ms Bernal has held positions at the Embassies of Chile in France, Greece and Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Bernal has also been appointed at the Division of Middle East and Africa, the Human Resources and Protocol General Direction at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile. Ms. Bernal graduated from the Chilean Diplomatic Academy in 1998. Previously, she studied History and Geography at the Catholic University of Valparaíso and holds a Master's degree in International Studies at the University of Chile.

ERICA DHAR is Director of Global Alliances with AARP's Office of International Affairs. She has expertise working with the United Nations; advocating on issues of global aging, including the human rights of older persons; and on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda. Erica manages the AARP Office of International Affairs in New York City, where she is responsible for relationships with international non-profits organizations, UN agencies and institutions dealing with aging, as well as international delegations. She spent 18 years in the broadcast and financial services industry. Erica received her bachelor's degree with honours from Delhi University in India, a master's degree in corporate political communication from Fairfield University in Connecticut, and a master's degree from the New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Erica's thesis on transnational caregiving was published and picked up by the NY Times.

MOANA GENEVEY is the policy officer and gender expert of the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet). She has previously worked for the European Commission, to coordinate the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, and in the EU Delegation to the United Nations. She was also the Secretary General of a network of seven alumni organizations around the world which grew out of the regional human rights programmes of the Global Campus of Human Rights. Moana has a BA in Political Studies, and two Master's degrees in European Governance and in Human Rights.

PAUL LADD has been Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) since October 2015. Before joining UNRISD he spent 10 years at UNDP where his last position was Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Agenda. From 2008-2009, he provided support to the Office of the UN Secretary-General on the impacts of the financial and economic crisis and the G20. Previously Paul had been a policy adviser for the UK Treasury, Chief Economist and acting Head of Policy with Christian Aid, the UK Department for International Development's economic adviser for the southern Africa region, and a financial adviser in the Central Bank of Guyana. Paul received his BSc in Economics and his MSc in Quantitative Development Economics from the University of Warwick. In 2016 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Law (LLD), also by the University of Warwick. Paul is a member of the United Nations Learning Advisory Council for the 2030 Agenda, the International Geneva Committee of the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), and the UNITAR 2030 Advisory Council. As an International Geneva Gender Champion Paul has committed to ensuring that relevant gender concerns feature in every piece of published UNRISD research and to seek gender balance in the Institute's network of collaborating researchers.

AMAL ABOU RAFEH is Chief of Programme on Ageing Unit at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York. She serves on the Secretariat of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data. Amal joined the United Nations in 2001, working in the areas of social policy, sustainable development and demography, and served on the Secretariats of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the High-level Meeting on Youth (2011). She has held positions in Beirut and New York. Before joining the United Nations, Amal lectured and taught on analysis of social and demographic data. Amal was born in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and holds a Master's in Science in Population Studies from the American University of Beirut.

KAROLINE SCHMID has worked in the United Nations since 1995 in various capacities, serving at different duty stations (Albania, New York, and Trinidad & Tobago). Karoline currently heads the Fertility and Population Ageing Section in the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. Before that she supported the development of the MISA (Multi Indicator Survey on Ageing) in sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with Malawi, Uganda and Kenya. She is currently also a member of the Steering Committee of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated data (TCGA) that aims to build international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics and data on the major dimensions of ageing. Apart from her experience within the United Nations system, she has worked in academia and in the private sector in various capacities. Karoline holds a diploma in Sociology from the University of Bamberg (Germany) and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Marburg (Germany).

AMBASSADOR MARTIN GARCIA MORITÁN is Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations. He has served as Foreign Service Officer at the Argentine Embassies in the Holy See (1984-85); Brasilia- Brazil (1987-92); La Paz- Bolivia (1993-94), Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations (1995-98); Consulate General of Argentina in Recife- Brazil (1998-99); Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations (2003-09); as Representative and Political Coordinator of the Security Council team, and as General Commissioner of the Argentine Pavilion to the World Exposition Shanghai 2010, (2009-2010). At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, he served as Director of the Special Representation on Terrorism Affairs (2011), and Director of Federal and Electoral Affairs (2012-2013). Ambassador Moritán is the current Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.

ELIE MUGABOWISHEMA is a Rwandan activist, who works on Human Rights, especially of the most vulnerable older women and men. Elie is the Founder and President of NSINDAGIZA Organization, promoting the rights of older people and the co-founder and Chairman of the Rwanda Leave No One Behind network, advocating for the inclusion of all in the implementation of the SDGs. He is also the co-founder of other organizations focusing on the promotion of Human Rights, including the Rwanda ageing platform and Shalom Ministries supporting widows in Rwanda.