



SDGs Conference 2022

In the Margins of the UNGA77

unga-conference.org

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 • New York

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Attend in-person
at John Jay College
of Criminal Justice



**JOURNALISTS AND
WRITERS FOUNDATION**

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE



**JOURNALISTS AND
WRITERS FOUNDATION**

in partnership with



The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) is an international civil society organization dedicated to culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The JWF promotes diversity and inclusion by creating forums for intellectual and social engagement, generates and shares knowledge with stakeholders, builds partnerships worldwide and develops policy recommendations for positive social change.

- JWF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in New York State.
- JWF is associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

NEW YORK - Headquarters - www.jwf.org
56 W 45 Street 4th Floor New York, NY 10036

Global Partners



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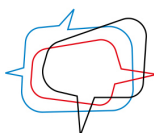
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Global Partners



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SDGs CONFERENCE 2022

IN THE MARGINS OF THE UNGA77

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 | www.unga-conference.org

DATE: 21 September 2022 (Wednesday)

TIME: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (New York EST)

VENUE:

- ZOOM - click [HERE](#) for registration
- In person - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

ORGANIZER: Journalists and Writers Foundation in collaboration with its Global Partners and John Jay College of Criminal Justice

PARTICIPANTS: High-Level Representatives of UN Member States, the United Nations and other International Organizations, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Academics, Researchers, and Practitioners.

WORKING LANGUAGE: English

BACKGROUND

In the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) and its 36 Global Partners from 24 countries are organizing the virtual SDGs Conference on 21 September 2022, Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (EST).

The JWF SDGs Conference, formerly known as the UNGA Conference, is the flagship event of the Journalists and Writers Foundation, creating a platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss the Global Agenda 2030, offer innovative solutions, strategies, and policy recommendations to advance the culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. As 2022 marks the 8th annual SDGs Conference, this global event gathered over 130 high-level speakers across the globe forming an interdisciplinary group of distinguished panelists to discuss a particular set of agenda over three panel sessions and propose a framework for action for the full and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the Post-COVID19 Era, as the world continues to witness widespread human rights violations endangering the peace and security, hindering sustainable development, and damaging our planet, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres says “now is the time to re-embrace global solidarity, find ways to work together for the common good and renew the social contract between Governments and their people within societies”. Secretary-General Guterres’ way forward continues to empower civil society organizations as the focal points of development and ensures opportunities for engagement across the intergovernmental levels.

In the light of “Our Common Agenda”, which was adopted at the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the JWF remains committed to working towards the SDG 17: “Partnerships for the Goals” as the Global Goals can



only be implemented with strong global partnerships and cooperation. The JWF has been contributing to this profound mission of building inclusive partnerships by sharing civil society best practices from all the regions of the world and initiating people-centered policy proposals for the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030.

As a result of the diligent review of the 2021-2022 agenda items and priority working areas of diverse UN Agencies and Offices, the JWF SDGs Conference will address (1) The Global State of Peace and Conflict Resolution (2) Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Zones (3) Migration and Refugee Policies: Intergovernmental Responses to Recent Displacements in the margins of the UNGA 77th Session on 21 September 2022, Wednesday.

The 3 Panel Sessions of the JWF SDGs Conference will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Target (2.1)** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round
- **Target (3.8)** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- **Target (5.2)** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **Target (5.5)** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
- **Target (10.7)** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- **Target (16.1)** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- **Target (16.3)** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- **Target (16.a)** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- **Target (17.17)** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships



SDGs Conference 2022 • In the Margins of the UNGA77

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 | www.unga-conference.org

PROGRAM

10:00AM - 10:30AM Welcome Remarks and Opening Session

OPENING REMARKS: Mehmet Kilic, President, Journalists and Writers Foundation | USA

WELCOME REMARKS: Brian Kerr, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, John Jay College of Criminal Justice | USA

KEYNOTES

Mark Dalton, Senior Director, Digital Program Management Office, Digital Informatics & Technology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center | USA

The Importance of Right to Access Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Development

Charlotta Schlyter, Ambassador, Head of Section for Sustainable Development, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN | SWEDEN

Progress of SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals in the light of "Our Common Agenda"

10:30AM - 12:00PM Panel 1

The Global State of Peace and Conflict Resolution

Saša Jure ko, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN | SLOVENIA

Keynote, The Responsibility to Protect norms for the sustainable peace and security

Mondli Makhanya, Editor-In-Chief, City Press | SOUTH AFRICA

Moderator, Opening Remarks

Ovais Sultan Khan, Independent Human Rights Activist | INDIA

The role of civil society in establishing sustainable peace and security

Diana de la Rua Eugenio, Answer for Peace, President | ARGENTINA

Negotiation and mediation as a key component of conflict resolution

Henelito A. Sevilla, Jr., PhD, Dean and Professor, Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman | PHILIPPINES

Wars and conflicts as a threat to sustainable development

Vonya Womack, Executive Director, RUSU | USA

The transitional justice as a key component of conflict resolution



12:15PM - 1:45PM Panel 2

Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Zones

H.E. Ms. Sophia Tesfamariam Yohannes, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN | ERITREA

Keynote

H.E. Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand | NEW ZEALAND

Keynote

Michael Busch, Director of Public Programs, The Polis Project | USA

Moderator, Opening Remarks

Khalida Popal, Founder, Director, Girl Power Org | DENMARK

Violations faced by women human rights defenders under authoritarian regimes

Carlos Pedro Mondlane, Mozambican Judges Association, Judge and President | MOZAMBIQUE

Progress of SDG 5.2: Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

Ranjeni Munusamy, GAPP: Government and Public Policy, Head of Media Relations | SOUTH AFRICA

Challenges of Reporting for Women Journalists: A Case from South Africa

Jelena Pia-Comella, Senior International Consultant | USA

Conflict related sexual violence as a weapon of war

2:00PM - 3:30PM Panel 3

Migration and Refugee Policies: Intergovernmental Responses to Recent Displacements

H.E. Ms. Sofia Voultepsi, Deputy Minister of Migration Deputy and Asylum in charge of Integration, Member of the Greek Parliament, New Democracy | GREECE

Keynote

Yuksel Durgut, Spokesperson, International Journalists Association | GERMANY

Moderator, Opening Remarks

Marianna Kakaounaki, Journalist and Documentary Producer, eKathimerini | GREECE

The cross-cutting issue of migration, refugees, and the SDGs

Dr. Graham Thom, Refugee Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia | AUSTRALIA

Climate crisis inducing and waves of migration

Nicole Melaku, National Partnership for New Americans, Executive Director | USA

Conflict-related enforced migration

3:30PM - 4:00PM Closing Session



PANEL 1: The Global State of Peace and Conflict Resolution

While the world is transitioning into a post-COVID19 era, new uprisings of crimes against humanity, the takeover of undemocratic regimes, and regional armed conflicts are occurring. Our global community is experiencing an increasing degree of militarization, while the state of peace and harmony continues to decrease due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis across the world. In this setting of unprecedented events, the Institute for Economics and Peace's Global Peace Index recorded the ninth deterioration in peacefulness. In response to the current global state of peace and conflict, progressive policy actions must be embraced with a dedicated political will to end devastating tensions and resolve persecutions of all forms.

The cross-cutting relation between all the trends of sustainable development requires the existence of peace not only with the absence of armed conflicts. Positive Peace is associated with the institutions, structures, and social development trends in which all fundamental human rights are respected and promoted with a comprehensive approach regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and culture. To sustain this constructive social, political, and environmental momentum, and achieve sustainable peace, transformational civil society organizations continue to be important stakeholders. Due to their multidimensional structure, civil leaders, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions endorse advanced levels of conflict resolution strategies, facilitate constructive dialogues among the Member States as well as local and regional communities to uphold universal human rights and sustainable development.

Establishing transitional justice is another international human rights mechanism which fosters peace and conflict resolution. It refers to the range of processes and mechanisms to facilitate society's response to the grave and systemic human rights violations to ensure accountability, serve justice, and achieve reconciliation. UN's approach to transitional justice "engages effective coordination and partnerships, addresses the root causes of the conflict and repressive rule, ensures to implement gender-sensitive actions, and encourages compliance with international norms and standards". Armed conflicts and regional tensions do not only destroy the peace and social harmony; but it has many other costs such as increasing hunger, restraining individuals' right to access high-quality nutrition and interrupting the development of resilient food systems across the world.

Panel Session 1 - The Global State of Peace and Conflict Resolution will discuss:

- The role of civil society in establishing sustainable peace and security
- Wars and conflicts as a threat to sustainable development
- The transitional justice as a key component of conflict resolution
- The Responsibility to Protect norms for the sustainable peace and security



PANEL 2: Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Zones

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) against women is accepted as a weapon of war by the international human rights community since the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court has addressed different forms of sexual violence as war crimes. Gender-based crimes are often used to humiliate individuals and tear apart communities. Under the widespread authoritarian regimes and armed conflicts, women and girls continue to be the main subjects of this grave atrocity. Impunity against the perpetrators of CRSV, ineffective preventative mechanisms, fear of stigma, and social exclusion remain among the most challenging barriers in combatting this systemic human rights violation.

The role of women journalists and human rights defenders becomes even more fundamental in documenting CRSV. They continue to be at the forefront to monitor, report and raise awareness of the grave women's rights violations under armed conflicts and undemocratic regimes. Revealing the truth and keeping the Member States accountable, women journalists, civil society leaders and peacebuilders are subjected to the increasing violence of all forms, including cyber-attacks, violence against women journalists, human rights defenders, and peacebuilders. Impunity against such crimes and the arrogance of undemocratic state powers further escalates the violence against women human rights defenders. Regardless of the censorship, arbitrary detentions, systemic defamation campaigns, legal harassment, and killings, women human rights advocates continue their dedicated efforts to promote peace and security.

System-wide advocacy planning, mobilization of resources, and disseminating guidelines on providing medical and mental assistance to the survivors are persistent critical working areas. There are several influential policy actions taken at different intergovernmental levels to end sexual violence and gender-based crimes during and in the wake of conflicts. Led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten, Stop Rape Now, the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, continues to mobilize a network of 21 UN entities with the mission to implement its Strategic Framework, which embraces a survivors-centered approach and provides different levels of supporting mechanisms to develop partnerships.¹

Panel Session 2 - Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Zones will discuss:

- Violations faced by women human rights defenders under authoritarian regimes
- Violence against women journalists in armed conflicts
- Progress of SDG 5.2: Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Challenges of Reporting for Women Journalists: A Case from South Africa
- CRSV as a weapon of war under the International Criminal Court and Rome Statute

¹ UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict via <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/un-action>



PANEL 3: Migration and Refugee Policies: Intergovernmental Responses to Recent Displacements

Effective inclusive and gender-responsive inter-governmental responses to the challenges faced by migrants and refugees throughout the world are critical in realizing the promising motto of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Leaving No One Behind. Internal Displacement Monitoring Center has recorded 59.1 million internally displaced people: 53.2 million affected by conflict and violence while 5.9 million were impacted by climate-related disasters. On the other hand, UNHCR documented the historically high levels of refugees in the first quarter of 2002: 26.6 million refugees who were enforced to leave their homeland due to persecution, war, or systemic human rights violations. Unfortunately, women, youth, and children continue to be hidden in the shadows and unfortunately invisible in the datasets.

The unprecedented increase of refugees enforced migrants and internally displaced individuals poses unique challenges to the full implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Successful resettlement of millions of individuals and protecting their right to exercise fundamental human rights is a prerequisite for sustainable peace and security. New migration trends must be analyzed thoroughly to produce comprehensive policy actions as this cross-cutting development issue requires building partnerships at the national, regional, and global levels. Refugees face many obstacles to accessing quality health services not only in their resettlements but also during their risky journey to a safe country, which usually includes crossing borders by walking. With the increasing violence and excessive state violations occurring on several frequently taken

routes for refugees on European and Americas borders, women and children suffer disproportionately due to lacking health services.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which paved the way for the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration both calls for people-centered guiding principles and “respects the rule of law, due process and access to justice as fundamentals of migration governance.” Apart from the global tensions and armed conflicts, climate change continues to pose its unique challenges creating a humanitarian crisis and new waves of migration. 2022 marked the deadliest drought of decades in Africa as there are an estimated 15 million impacted by this environmental crisis in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. The interdependent factors of climate change and migration remain among the foremost priorities of the intergovernmental development agencies.

Panel Session 3 - Migration and Refugee Policies will discuss:

- The cross-cutting issue of migration, refugees, and the SDGs
- Climate crisis inducing and waves of migration
- Conflict-related enforced migration
- International Organization for Migration's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)





Pioneers in SDGs Awards pay tribute to outstanding organizations and individuals who contribute to sustainable peace and development while promoting and protecting the culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development at the local, national, and global levels. The Journalists and Writers Foundation and its 36 Global Partners from 24 countries recognize Pioneers in SDGs that contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative and creative projects. The altruism, philanthropy, dedication, and commitment of the Pioneers in SDGs are worthwhile in making our world a better place for all.

Our international jury will evaluate the projects based on four criteria: innovation, stakeholders, scope, and impact. After quantitative and qualitative review of the projects, our international jury will select the first, second, and third place winners for recognition. Last year, 30 projects from 20 different countries participated and awarded for their outstanding contributions to their local communities. This year, Pioneers in SDGs Awards Ceremony will be held on 28 September 2022, after the SDGs Conference 2022.

Global Visibility & Recognition

Pioneers in SDGs participants will have the remarkable opportunity to share their best-practices and projects with an influential audience from the United Nations diplomats, academics, experts, journalists, and more. In addition, projects and videos will be promoted on the UNGA Conference website for international exposure and compiled as a booklet for distribution to relevant United Nations agencies. Pioneers and organizations will benefit from meeting and networking with international organizations and exploring opportunities for further collaboration and partnership.

Submission & Evaluation

Our international jury will evaluate each project considering four criteria: innovation, stakeholders, scope, and impact. The projects are expected to serve as an exemplary model that can inspire other individuals and organizations to make a positive social change and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Projects can be submitted at the SDGs Conference website that includes project application, a three-minute video, contact information, and a description of the project. See details at unga-conference.org/about-pioneers-in-sdgs.

Selection Criteria

1. Innovation refers to the project's approach to finding creative solutions to global challenges. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for innovative contributions to social, economic, and environmental development.
2. Stakeholders refers to key players involved in the decision-making processes. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for inclusiveness in the decision-making processes without discriminating on basis of race, ethnicity, gender, etc.
3. Scope refers to planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for goals, objectives, indicators, and outcomes with tangible results.
4. Impact refers to the contributions of the project on individuals, organizations, and the society at large. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for impact in society in regard to social, economic, and environmental development.

AWARDS

- 1st Place: Pioneers in SDGs Award + \$2,000 USD
 - 2nd Place: Pioneers in SDGs Award + \$1,000 USD
 - 3rd Place: Pioneers in SDGs Award + \$500 USD
-
- Innovation Award + \$250 USD
 - Stakeholders Award + \$250 USD
 - Scope Award + \$250 USD
 - Impact Award + \$250 USD
 - Changemakers Award + \$100 USD



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Wednesday, 21 September 2022 | 10:00AM - 4:00PM EST

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

10:00AM - 10:30AM Welcome Remarks and Opening Session

OPENING REMARKS: Mehmet Kilic, President, Journalists and Writers Foundation | USA



Mehmet Kilic is the President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation, an international civil society organization dedicated to the culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. To raise awareness on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, he has mobilized civil society organizations across the globe by organizing international conferences, panel discussions, international trips, and youth projects. Mr. Kilic also creates platforms for intellectual and social engagement that aims to promote peace, diversity, and inclusion for positive social change.

With over 20 years of experience in global affairs, public relations, and non-profit sector, Mr. Kilic pioneered educational and social responsibility projects. Mr. Kilic organized Ambassadors Series discussions hosting ambassadors and diplomats with a focus on Africa, South Asia, and the Balkans. He initiated the Young Peace Ambassadors Academy that offers free global studies programs for high school students to inspire young leaders and responsible global citizens. Mr. Kilic has a master's degree in Education from Mercy College and is a doctoral candidate at Walden University, pursuing his PhD in Global and Comparative Education.

WELCOME REMARKS: Brian Kerr, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, John Jay College of Criminal Justice | USA



Brian Kerr, Ed.D. is Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr. Kerr brings over 24 years of progressive administrative and leadership experience in higher education within both academic and student affairs/enrollment management. Prior to his current position, over the course of his 17-year career at Queensborough Community College, Dr. Kerr has achieved significant accomplishments/outcomes in his roles as Dean for Student Development.

Also, during his tenure at SUNY Stony Brook, he served as Associate Director of the Educational Opportunity Program. In this position, Dr. Kerr helped to re-envision and rebuild retention efforts, revamp student recruitment outreach, and develop a grant proposal for new marketing initiatives that resulted in increased funding for their student population. His educational credentials include a Doctorate in Educational Administration from St. John's University, a master's degree in Human Resource Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the State University of New York at Albany.



OPENING KEYNOTE

Mark Dalton, Senior Director, Digital Program Management Office, Digital Informatics & Technology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center | USA



Mark Dalton is the Senior Director, Digital Program Management Office, Digital Informatics & Technology of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Mark's experience combines international development, technology, and healthcare on a global scale. He joins MSK from the United Nations, where he served in numerous roles dating back to 1998, primarily with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and more recently with the UN's main technology team and the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, where he led on the implementation of its new digital transformation strategy.

Prior to joining the UN, Mark was the co-founder and operations director of an international medical relief organization, MERLIN, that became a household name in the United Kingdom before merging with SAVE-UK in 2013. Mark has worked in over thirty crisis countries worldwide. He has an advanced management background and enjoys working at the interface of digital technology, public health and social impact.

OPENING KEYNOTE

Charlotta Schlyter, Ambassador, Head of Section for Sustainable Development, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN | SWEDEN



Charlotta Schlyter is Ambassador for Sustainable Development at the Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York since 1 September 2020. From 2017 to 2020, she was Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh. Ambassador Schlyter joined the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1997. Her earlier postings abroad include the Embassy in New Delhi, India, the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York and the Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, Ambassador Schlyter has worked for the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York, for the UNHCR in Ankara, Turkey, and for the ILO in Geneva, Switzerland and in New Delhi, India. Charlotta Schlyter holds Master of Laws (LL.M) degrees from Uppsala University, Sweden and from the University of Toronto, Canada.

10:30AM - 12:00PM Panel Session 1: Global State of Peace and Conflict Resolution

KEYNOTE: Saša Jurečko, Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN, Deputy Permanent Representative | SLOVANIA



Sasa Jurecko is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN. Joined the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations as Deputy Permanent Representative on 14 September 2020. Before this current position, she was an Advisor to the Director-General for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Jurecko also served as an Advisor to the Political Director/Director-General for Common Foreign and Security Policy; Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



MODERATOR

Mondli Makhanya, Editor-In-Chief, City Press | SOUTH AFRICA

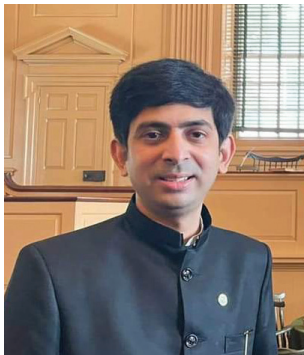


Mondli Makhanya is the Editor-in-Chief of City Press. He has been in the media industry for more than 26 years. He is one of South Africa's most respected editors and an influential columnist. Mr. Makhanya's insights into South Africa's political and social developments are much sought after. He is a regular speaker at public and private events and is frequently invited to speak on panels across a range of topics. Mr. Makhanya began his career at the *Weekly Mail* where he covered the transition to democracy and reported on business and economic debates. During this time, he also served a stint at *Newsweek* magazine in New York. After the *Weekly Mail*, he worked for *The Star* as political writer and later as Deputy News Editor and Executive Editor. He was one of the founding editors of *Sunday World* before moving on to the *Sunday Times*, where he worked as political editor. Makhanya has served as Editor of the *Mail and Guardian*, Editor-in-Chief of the

Sunday Times, and Editor-in-Chief of the Times Media Group. Makhanya has also served as Chairperson of the South African National Editors Forum and as Treasurer of The African Editors' Forum.

PANELIST 1: Ovais Sultan Khan, Independent Human Rights Activist | INDIA

The role of civil society in establishing sustainable peace and security



Ovais Sultan Khan is an independent human rights activist. He is also a consultant in policy and research. Mr. Khan has worked independently and with leading policymakers and planners, politicians, intellectuals, academics, and activists in several national and international institutions, think-tanks, government-bodies and civil society on politics, knowledge, wisdom, alternatives, democratic governance, religious minorities, gender, religion, tradition, and culture for more than a decade. In 2017, Mr. Khan was appointed as an advisor of the Delhi Minorities Commission, quasi-judicial body under the Government of Delhi. Previously, he was on the board of Act Now for Harmony and Democracy, a socio-cultural organization from 2016-2018. Ovais Sultan Khan also had the privilege of working with the South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies as its Programme Secretary. Currently, he is

the trustee with the Future Council, which is a Delhi-based think tank, advocating human rights, justice, democracy, non-violence and well-being. He is also advisor on human rights and Islamophobia at Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which is the oldest and largest organization of Indian Muslims.

PANELIST 2: Diana de la Rúa Eugenio, President, Answer for Peace | ARGENTINA

Negotiation as a key component of conflict resolution



Diana de la Rúa Eugenio is the President of Answer for Peace, an Argentinean non-profit, non-governmental organization, and the former Secretary General of the Latin American Peace Research Association. She is full professor of Negotiation at a Postgraduate at the Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero and provides training courses throughout Argentina on negotiation, mediation, specializing in complex community mediation, consensus building and facilitation. Diana de la Rúa Eugenio is also a part-time, multi-party community mediator at the Buenos Aires Ombudsman's Office. She has been a Board Member of the International Peace Research Association Foundation since 2006. Diana co-founded the Commissions "First Nation" and "Peace and Citizenship" for the Civil Society Advisory Council within the National Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina. She has studied negotiation, mediation and

conflict resolution at the University of Buenos Aires, Harvard Law School, FLASCO, Transcend (Galtung) and various other Argentinean institutions.



PANELIST 3: Henelito A. Sevilla, Jr., PhD, Dean and Professor, Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman | PHILIPPINES

Wars and conflicts as a threat to sustainable development



Dr. Henelito A. Sevilla, Jr. is the Dean of the University of the Philippines Asian Center and Professor of Asian and Philippine Studies where he also serves as its West Asia Studies Coordinator since 2008. Dr. Sevilla, Jr. earned his PhD in International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran, Iran where he specialized foreign policy, political economy, resource competition, Filipino migration, and Muslim concerns in the global south. He has researched and published numerous articles in International Relations, Philippine Foreign Policy, and the Middle East both in local and international peer reviewed journals. Dr. Sevilla, Jr. also represented the Philippines in various academic fora and conferences.

PANELIST 4: Vonya Womack, Executive Director, RUSU | USA

The transitional justice as a key component of conflict resolution



Vonya Womack is a respected author, university instructor, international presenter and keynote speaker who served in Director, Coordinator, and Management roles including current role as Executive Director of Refugees Unknown-Stories Untold, (RUSU) which serves to advocate for human rights and to create trauma support for exiles. Based in the United States, RUSU serves international locations. She is an active board member, published author, leader, and contributor to public service messaging with presentations conducted in North America, North Africa, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Europe. She is currently presenting virtually for universities, governments, NGO's, and international entities to include business industries. Vonya is a thought leader who has utilized her international and business experience to create an organization that serves

the vastly growing political refugee population. University adjunct instructor in Global Leadership and Business encouraging students to see the world through an international lens.

12:15PM - 1:45PM Panel Session 2: Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Zones

KEYNOTE: H.E. Ms. Sophia Tesfamariam, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN | ERITREA



H.E. Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam Yohannes is the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations. Before her current appointment, Ms. Tesfamariam was Executive Director of the United States Foundation for the Horn of Africa in Washington, D.C. Between 1998 and 2005 she worked in the administration division of the Boeing Company in Leesburg, Virginia, United States. She was a credentialing specialist for PHP Healthcare in Reston, Virginia, from 1989 until 1998. Ms. Tesfamariam was co-editor of Diaspora, a monthly digital and print magazine providing news and analysis tailored to the global African diaspora communities with a focus on women and youth in development. She has considerable global experience in social development, having conducted more than 100 seminars and workshops for women and young people

in the United States, Europe and Africa. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Western International University in Phoenix, Arizona, in the United States.



KEYNOTE: H.E. Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand | NEW ZEALAND



Helen Clark is a respected global leader in sustainable development, gender equality and international co-operation. She served three successive terms as Prime Minister of New Zealand between 1999 and 2008. While in government, she led policy debate on a wide range of economic, social, environmental and cultural issues, including sustainability and climate change. She then became the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator for two terms from 2009 to 2017, the first woman to lead the organization. She was also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the Heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues. In 2019 Helen Clark became patron of The Helen Clark Foundation. She is an active member of various international organizations.

MODERATOR

Michael Busch, Director of Public Programs, The Polis Project | USA



Michael Busch teaches in the graduate program in Human Rights at John Jay College, CUNY. He also serves as Senior Editor of Warscapes magazine, and Director of Public Programs at The Polis Project, a New York City-based research and journalism non-profit working with communities in resistance. Mr. Busch previously taught political science, sociology and international studies at The City College of New York, where he was also the Associate Director of the Office of Student Success. Among other duties in that role he managed and developed curricula for the college's flagship Powell Fellowship programs for students interested in careers in public service. Michael Busch was also previously Research Associate at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies where he worked on human rights, political economy and global governance, and co-authored

Sustainable Global Governance for the 21st Century: The United Nations Confronts Economic and Environmental Crises amidst Changing Geopolitics (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2009) with Thomas G. Weiss and Tapio Kanninen. Michael's other writing has appeared in dozens of journals, magazines and newspapers, as well as in several edited volumes. His most recent publication appears in "Public Purpose: Industrial Policy's Comeback and Government's Role in Shared Prosperity" (Boston Review/MIT Press: 2021).

PANELIST 1: Khalida Popal, Founder, Director, Girl Power Org | DENMARK

Violations faced by women human rights defenders under authoritarian regimes



Khalida began breaking down barriers and empowering women in Afghanistan in 2007 when she helped found the Afghan National Women's Soccer Team. She served as the team captain, and she later became the first woman ever hired by the Afghanistan Football Federation. When it became clear that she was no longer safe in the country, she went into exile and continued her advocacy for the rights of women and girls by establishing the Denmark-based Girl Power Organisation. Girl Power encourages women's empowerment through sport, particularly for refugee and migrant girls. Ms Popal has become an outspoken and deeply respected advocate for women's rights in Afghanistan and beyond. A former defender on the soccer field, she is now a defender and champion of human rights around the globe. Amid the recent fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, she worked tirelessly to help dozens of female senior and youth

soccer players from the senior & junior national teams escape and relocate. She has continued to support these girls and their families as they transition to their new countries of residence.



**PANELIST 2: Carlos Pedro Mondlane, Judge and President,
Mozambican Judges Association | MOZAMBIQUE**

Progress of SDG 5.2: Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls



Carlos Pedro Mondlane is Judge of Law in Maputo since 2005. He has been a Member of the Superior Council of the Judiciary and Trainer at the Legal and Judicial Training Center. Mr. Mondlane is serving as a President at the Mozambican Association of Judge and International Union of Judges. He is an author for many books and legal articles on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. Mr. Mondlane annotates and commented on the “Code of Civil Procedure” and “Collection of 15 years of the Land Law: Sale of Land in Mozambique: Myth or Reality?” He is currently working on a “Handbook on Human Rights.” Mr. Mondlane has a master’s in business law from the Catholic University of Mozambique and currently pursuing his Doctorate in Law.

PANELIST 3: Ranjeni Munusamy, Head of Media Relations, GAPP: Government and Public Policy | SOUTH AFRICA

Challenges of Reporting for Women Journalists: A Case from South Africa



Ranjeni Munusamy is a communications strategist at South Africa’s Government and Public Policy think tank (GAPP). Previously Ms. Munusamy served as political secretary to South Africa’s former Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni. She also worked as Associate Editor at the *Sunday Times* in South Africa and Associate Editor of *Daily Maverick*, South Africa’s premier online news site. Ms. Munusamy is a prominent analyst and commentator on South African politics, across local and international media platforms. She has over 20 years of experience in journalism and communications. She has reported extensively on all South Africa’s Presidents since 1994. Ms. Munusamy has also covered international events such as the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and the German Bundestag elections in 2017.

PANELIST 4: Jelena Pia-Comella, Senior International Consultant | USA

CRSV as a weapon of war under the International Criminal Court and Rome Statute



Jelena Pia-Comella is consulting with the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes; she is an adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Hofstra University, as well as a faculty member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Ms. Pia-Comella started her career in 1996 as a diplomat representing Andorra at the UN, Canada, and the United States. Ms. Pia-Comella was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations in 2002 and served as chargé d’affaires to Canada and the United States. She served in different capacities for civil society organizations: CWGL, WEDO, WFM-IGP. Ms. Pia-Comella is the President of the Board of Directors of SOS-Torture/Burundi and board member and treasurer of Global Justice Center. She is a member of the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces and the Women Network on the Responsibility to Protect, Peace and

Security of the British Academy for the humanities and social sciences of Leeds University. Ms. Pia-Comella holds a master’s degree in International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University, New York and a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Fribourg University, Switzerland.

2:00PM - 3:30PM Panel Session 3: Migration and Refugee Policies - Intergovernmental Responses to Recent Displacements

KEYNOTE: H.E. Sofia Voultepsi, Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum in charge of Integration, Member of the Greek Parliament, New Democracy | GREECE



H.E. Ms. Sophia Voultepsi is the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum of Greece. Since 2004, Ms. Voultepsi is the elected Member of the Hellenic Parliament and served as Parliamentary Spokeswoman of the New Democracy Party from 2012 until June 2014. Deputy Minister Voultepsi was the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committees for National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Macedonia-Thrace and Aegean regions. H.E. Ms. Voultepsi was a Delegate of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – OSCE. Prior to her various positions in different governmental offices, Ms. Voultepsi was a journalist with a career in daily newspapers and magazines. She was the editor-in-chief in daily newspapers as well as radio and television programs. Ms. Voultepsi was a participant in many international press delegations to all

European countries, USA, Russia, Asia, Africa. She covered conflicts in areas of the Middle East, Kuwait, Bosnia, Sahara. the fall of the Ceausescu regime in Romania and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Ms. Voultepsi received her Public Law and Political Science degree from the Athens University Law School.

MODERATOR

Yuksel Durgut, Spokesperson, International Journalists Association | GERMANY



Yuksel Durgut is the Spokesperson of the International Journalists Association. Mr. Durgut started his journalism career in 1994 in Cihan News Agency. He worked as a war reporter in many countries. He was a bureau chief of Cihan in Pakistan and Afghanistan for almost 10 years. After 2004, he held various positions at Cihan News until the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Mr. Durgut, a Political Science graduate, has been living in exile in Germany since 2018. He is also the Editor in chief of *Journalist Post Magazine*. Mr. Durgut is an author in *TR7/24* and writes about foreign politics. He published several books including *I'm listening to Istanbul*, *My Blue World*, *Istanbul from the Consuls' Window*, *Sanctuaries of Istanbul from the Sky*, and finally in Germany *The Hope of Children*. He produced several documentaries for International Tv channels.

PANELIST 1: Marianna Kakaounaki, Journalist and Documentary Producer | GREECE

The cross-cutting issue of migration, refugees, and the SDGs



Marianna Kakaounaki is an award-winning journalist for Greek print and TV outlets. Ms. Kakaounaki has reported for the Wall Street Journal, and she is regularly serving as a field producer for CBS News and has been a part-time employee of the Olympic Broadcasting Services working as their features reporter for the last 9 years. In 2019, Ms. Kakaounaki was nominated and selected by the US State Department to be an IVLP “Edward R. Murrow Program” participant. During her time off from work, she has participated in documentary workshops, film-making courses, and investigative seminars in Greece and abroad. She just released her first feature film “INVISIBLE”, which is about the persecuted Turkish community. Marianna Kakaounaki has her degree in Psychology.



PANELIST 2: Dr. Graham Thom, Refugee Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia | AUSTRALIA

Climate crisis inducing and waves of migration



Dr. Graham Thom has been Amnesty International Australia's Refugee Coordinator since May 2000, working on behalf of individual asylum seekers as well as on broader human rights issues relating to refugees. He has visited detention centers in Australia, including those on Christmas Island and refugee camps and detention centers in the Netherlands, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kenya, Nauru and Thailand. Since 2007 Dr. Thom has represented Amnesty International at the UNHCR Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva. Dr. Thom continues to give lectures and publish articles on refugee issues, both globally and domestically. In 2000, Dr Thom completed his PhD at the University of Sydney's Department of Government.

PANELIST 3: Nicole Melaku, Executive Director, National Partnership for New Americans | USA

Conflict-related enforced migration



Nicole Melaku is the Executive Director of the National Partnerships for New Americans bringing over a decade of experience working on immigrant and refugee issues at the local, state, and national level. She is the former Executive Director of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition and its C4 sister organization CIRC Action Fund. Ms. Melaku led the expansion of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition to over 95 immigrant and refugee serving organizations and helped pass some of the country's most notable and affirmative immigrant integration policies. Nicole is a first generation New American whose mother and grandparents hail from Chihuahua, Mexico and who naturalized as a result of the Immigration Reform and Naturalization Act of 1986. Nicole's career trajectory draws on the strength and perseverance of her family's own immigration story-

she is an advocate, organizer, and movement leader who is dedicated to building a more inclusive and fair democracy. She is a Welcoming America White House Champion of Change, a Hispanic in Philanthropy Fellow, a Transformative Leadership for Change Fellow, a New American Leaders alumni, and a former co-chair of NPNA's sister coalition the Fair Immigration Reform Movement.



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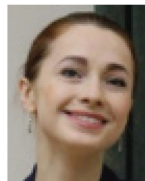
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Ombudsman of the
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
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