

CSW67 Dialogue: Women Leaders Impacting Change

Thursday, March 16, 2023 @ 1PM-3:30PM, EDT



H.E. Ms. Ilana V. Seid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Seid, presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 16 September 2021 as the Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations. Before her appointment, Ambassador Seid was the Founder and CEO of the online e-commerce company Sunday Morning. Prior to launching Sunday Morning, Ambassador Seid worked as a software engineer and technology project manager in New York, and as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers and Nomura Securities in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and New York. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University in the United States.



H.E. Mrs. Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO in Paris. Ambassador Miculescu has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO since January 2021, after holding the position of Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Belgrade, between 2015 and 2020. Prior to this, she was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, between 2008 and 2015. During her term in New York, Amb. Miculescu held several positions including: Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board, Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Francophonie, Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the General Assembly during its 66th Session, Vice-President of the UN General

Assembly for its 68th Session, and Chair of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development. Amb. Miculescu's 30 years of diplomatic career include the positions of Spokesperson for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Media Advisor to the Minister (1993 and 1999), Director of the Press Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1994 and 2008), Press Secretary of the Embassy of Romania to the US (1994-1998), or Senior Public Information Officer at the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo (1999-2000). Between 2000 and 2004, she served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania (with rank of minister), becoming eventually the first woman in the Romanian diplomatic history to be granted the rank of Ambassador. Between 2006 and 2007, she acted as Senior Advisor for Public Outreach to the Government of Iraq, within a USAID-funded project. Amb. Miculescu holds the titles of Doctor Honoris Causa Beneficiorum Publicorum of the Western University in Timișoara, as well as the title of Doctor Magna Cum Laudae of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. This is due to the fact that, in parallel with her diplomatic career, she has developed a rich academic and public communication experience that includes teaching international public relations courses at two universities in Romania, as well as publishing several books and articles on related topics. In her country, she is recognized also as one of the best experts in the field of international public relations management, being appreciated especially due to the elaboration of the first university curriculum on this subject, a study program currently used by several universities. Ambassador Miculescu has a passion for singing, and many times she matched it with projects of cultural diplomacy. During her term as Ambassador of Romania to the United Nations, she initiated several unprecedented music projects that included the "Ambassadors Sing for Peace" music album - containing peace-themed songs performed by ambassadors - and the UNRocks Music Group, that was the first ever music group in the UN circles composed of ambassadors, with which she released, in cooperation with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a music album called "Strong UN, Better World." Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu is married and has two children.



Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, 73rd President of the UN General Assembly, Member of the Group of Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, & Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Ms. Espinosa is an Ecuadorian academic, diplomat, politician and poet. A linguist and with graduate studies in Amazonian Studies and Environmental Geography. Ms. Espinosa has more than 30 years of professional experience in academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and high-level government positions. In Ecuador, she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in two occasions, Minister of National Defense and as advisor for the constitutional process of 2008. With a vote of two thirds of its membership, her most recent appointment was to serve as President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2018-2019), becoming the fourth woman in history and the first from Latin America and the Caribbean to be

elected to preside this body since its foundation in 1945. Currently Ms. Espinosa has several advisory roles in the areas of global governance, health diplomacy and multilateralism. Among other responsibilities, she is a member of the Group of Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, member of The Lancet Commission on COVID-19, The Science Panel for the Amazon and a fellow at the Bosch Academy in Germany.



Ms. Stella Chepngeno, Director of Women Economic Empowerment with the Office of The First Lady of The Republic of Kenya. Stella is an accomplished financial specialist with over 20 years' experience with a focus on women empowerment, financial inclusion and gender inclusivity. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and is currently undertaking Masters in gender and development studies. She has diverse trainings from national and international institutions in micro finance, gender inclusivity, table banking, women's empowerment among others. She has successfully overseen several programs in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia funded by USAID, European Union, DFID, Lutheran World Relief, DANIDA, among others.



Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet. A development economist, lawyer and changemaker with over 40 years of varied experience, Mr. Tripathi is the Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences - the world's largest academic institution dedicated exclusively to indigenous people and cultures. He is also a Senior Distinguished Fellow on Innovative Finance at the World Agroforestry Centre. He has served with the UN for over two decades in key positions across the planet and was most recently the UN Assistant Secretary-General, Head of New York Office at UN Environment and Secretary of the UN Environment Management Group. His other strategic engagements with the UN include: Head of Human Rights Investigations for the UN in post-war Bosnia; Chair of the Committees on Laws, Treaties and Administrative matters for the UN-

mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004; UN Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias where he facilitated international cooperation and funding of US\$ 7 billion for post-tsunami recovery efforts in support of the government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office established in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of a US\$ 1 Billion REDD+ partnership between Indonesia, Norway and other stakeholders. Tripathi was instrumental in establishing the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia in 2016 and the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) in 2017 to leverage 'private finance for public good' at mega-scale to achieve transformative social and environmental impact for millions of people in developing countries.



Ms. Ijlal A. Hameedaddeen, Founder & CEO at Solve. Ijlal is passionate about creating local and international business opportunities in the region. She is an internationally recognized leader with 10+ years of experience leading growth throughout the USA, Saudi Arabia, and the wider Middle Eastern Region. Strong command of strategic operations with exposure to go-to-market activation, large scale negotiations, business development, customer success, PR, commercialization, recruitment, communications, business strategy, and advisory. Relationship builder who is known for influencing at all levels, driving consensus across the senior leadership team, and managing external stakeholders and partners. Versatile professional who sets enterprise strategy but can also operate in the details when needed. Inspirational team leader who is known for developing talent, shaping positive culture, and building high-performing teams.



Mrs. Edie Rodriguez has been a Special Advisor to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Tourism Authority. Edie is a global travel industry Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of Directors with four decades of international business experience and charitable involvement in varying organizations. Over the past five years, Edie has been a Special Advisor to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Tourism Authority where she Chairs the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. Edie is globally recognized as a Thought Leader for Luxury Global Travel. She has been a frequent public speaker at various conferences around the world and has appeared on many international news programs. Her passions include educating the global tourism industry about the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and mentoring young people starting out in their careers. She holds a Bachelor

of Science degree from Nova Southeastern University. She resides in South Florida and is the mom to a grown son.



Ms. Lauren Neeleman, Founder of LessData. Lauren is an experienced entrepreneur, consultant, and data specialist. Growing up in an entrepreneurial family, Lauren's fondest childhood memories were collaborating on business ideas around the dinner table. While working at her family ranch, Zion Ponderosa, Lauren learned the challenges and opportunities that entrepreneurship provides. As a teenager, Lauren traveled to India to serve in leprosy colonies. While there, she helped to create a hands-on educational program, facilitated micro loans for aspiring entrepreneurs and taught English classes. In between humanitarian trips, Lauren continued to fundraise and spread awareness about the fight against leprosy. Lauren is a lifelong learner. After earning her Bachelor's Degree in finance, she went on to earn a Masters Degree in business management from Harvard University. She continues to take courses to broaden her diverse skill

set. While consulting a variety of organizations on the business fundamentals: mission, vision, values and metrics, Lauren realized that small businesses and nonprofits lacked the ability to track their metrics. She recognized that with fragmented, inaccurate data, leaders were less likely to achieve their overarching goals. Lauren brainstormed ways she could empower leaders with the data they needed and launched LessData. LessData combines artificial intelligence with time-tested frameworks to provide actionable insights in a digestible format. Most notably, Lauren is currently working with several nonprofits to help them determine and track the crucial metrics that will help them scale their impact.



Ms. Alina Karimamusama, Founder and Chief Executive of AfriHer. Alina is a renowned young reformer & social entrepreneur, driven to solve the challenges of economic marginalization in Africa, she founded AfriHer - an organization creating economic emancipation for young people, and women in rural Zambia through education and entrepreneurship. Her activism has inspired hundreds of thousands of young people across the world, with her story being featured on BBC World News: In 2017, She was recognized as one of only 240 young leaders in the world to be championed by the late Queen Elizabeth II through a prestigious award program known as Queens Young Leaders, Alina then received a scholarship to the University of Cambridge from HMJ The Queen. Her innovative solutions to solving Africa's economic challenges through enterprise have been recognized by The African Leadership Academy, who awarded her as one of the top 4 most innovative persons in Africa 2018. Alina, a Zambia National Hero, is the youngest person to have graduated the inaugural Atlas Corps / American Express funded Leadership Academy for Senior Southern African Leaders. An awarded associate fellow of the royal commonwealth society, she is currently a young ambassador & leader of The Queens Commonwealth

Trust. In 2018, The President of Zambia appointed her on National Duty to aid getting the country to a middle income economy by 2030 after Alina became the first Zambian to attain Gold Champion level in her field, during a 73 year old Global competition held in Abu Dhabi. Naomi Campbell has referred to her as an inspiration, while Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have previously backed her work, Alina's solutions have directly empowered tens of thousands of young people in Zambia.



Ms. Shermin Lakha, Esq., Founder & Managing Attorney of LVLUP Legal.

This is a boutique women-owned law firm dedicated to empowering underrepresented startups, businesses, and entrepreneurs, to "level up" and make smart legal decisions. Shermin decided to start LVLUP Legal so she could work with like-minded individuals who were striving to make their dreams come true. She started LVLUP Legal with the goal to modernize the legal field by creating an open level of communication and providing flat fee pricing. What sets her apart is her philosophy is to build long-term relationships with her client's as a trusted legal advisor, and become an integral part of building their success. Shermin is a proud female founder who is on a mission to break traditional stereotypes on what it means to be a successful woman. One of the goals in starting LVLUP Legal was to encourage female attorneys, legal professionals, and law students to have a

balance in between their careers and lifestyle, follow their passions, and embrace their individuality.



Ms. Ilona Lee is the Founder & CEO of ILE MAISON - Global IM Home Movement and Magazine dedicated to enhancing Well-being of Properties, People and the Planet.

Ilona Lee is also a Licensed International Real Estate Advisor based in NYC, Strategist and Business Connector with 20 years of experience in International Media & Communication, Global Business Development, and building Strategic Partnerships for expansion in USA, and Europe. She is also a Strategic Coach certified by Tony Robbins Training Center. As a real estate expert she specializes in luxury experiential living and residential hospitality. She offers an artfully curated collection of Well-being-centered properties in Manhattan, Florida, and Europe. As a founder of ILA LEE LLC - a consultancy firm that helps businesses innovate, transform, and expand Ilona is looking deeply into client's business and helps bring resources and bold strategies to life in unexpected ways. She blends a deep understanding of disruptive forces with the power of global connections to generate new ideas and products, new business models, and new relationships that can help reinvent and succeed. As the founder of the Île Maison (previously Ilona Lee Network for Women in Business in NYC), she has demonstrated her gift for connecting people and has built a

sizable global community dedicated to innovative design, craftsmanship mastery, and sustainability. Ilona believes in giving back to the community, supporting charities and good causes to help create a better world. She has recently started working on a women empowerment project for female artisans in developing countries to help them escape poverty and preserve culture.



Ms. Mozhgan Wafiq Alokozai, Founder and CEO of Eagle Online Academy. She is a member of the U.S. Afghan Women's Council (USAWC). She began her employment career in 2002 and she started her first business in 2004, a cafe shop in Kabul Women's Garden, to expand her idea of doing business in 2007 she established the first women business shopping center with 33/shops in Kabul city, World of Women Business market. In 2008 in a partnership with her husband, Mozhgan established Impressive Consulting. Since 2016 Mozhgan has established her digital marketing company My Impressive LLC, based in Virginia, with several successful projects under her, she has been recognized as the best leader in 2018 by the National Professional Women's Associations of USA. To share her knowledge and experience she got involved with reputable Afghan women's economic empowerment programs such as Peace Through Business® as a trainee in 2008 and to pay forward as Peace Through Business® network president, instructor, and mentor in last 12 years. as well played Master Mentor and Business instructor role with Goldman Sachs 10,000 women program with American University of Afghanistan. She has mentored more than 50 women-owned businesses and trained 3,000 women in nine provinces of

Afghanistan during the past 11 years. Mozhgan Wafiq Alokozai was awarded Best Female Leader by the Ministry of Women Affairs in 2009. In 2011 she received best Female Entrepreneur award through Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) and Peace Through Business® program, in 2012 she was recognized as a best instructor of the year through American university of Afghanistan Goldman Sachs 10000 Women program. In 2013 she received the best Afghan female leader from AISA, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA), in 2015 she has received best entrepreneurship Bibi Khadija first Women's Award and she has received the National Association of Professional women.



Ms. Shayna Davidov Hanson, Founder and CEO of the Regenerative Advisory Group, and a Board Member of the SDG Relief Fund. Shayna's initiative is a consultancy created to support real estate portfolio strategies that incorporate health, wellness, lifestyle, innovation and sustainability within the built environment. Currently, Shayna is an advisor to various international family offices, small island nations and has over twenty years' experience managing real estate acquisitions, with a specific focus in well & green building. . She also has collaborated in the past on projects with the WHO, IMSS (Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social), INI (Instituto Nacional Indigenista), various NGOs in Mexico, Brazil and SE Asia-- in public health and sustainability. She is an ardent supporter of building strategies for resiliency, and fervently believes that the future lies in nurturing constructive intersections between health, business creation, civil society and the environment. In recent years, Shayna has directed efforts and international conferences for the Bloomberg C40 Global Mayoral Climate consortium in Latin America which aims to assemble mayors, city delegates, climate experts, influencers, change makers, business leaders and innovators in events,

press conferences and cultural activities that support global networks for promoting sustainable cities and communities. Shayna is a passionate advocate for the USGBC (United States Green Building Council), a participant in the Greenbuild Conference, a student of the WELL Building (IBWI International Well Building Institute), a LEED Green Associate, a Fit well ambassador and a recipient of the Women in Green Fellowship. Shayna holds an MBA from ENB Barcelona,



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First. Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in

Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family and Convener of NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum at the UN. Margo is a Sustainable Development Strategic Consultant connecting stakeholders from all sectors and regions with the SDGs. In addition, she is an Advisor for Youth for a Better World-MMUN, a Climate Reality Project Leader and a Member of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Margo and the rest of the NGOCD-NY Executive Board are proud that NGOCD-NY has Special Consultative Status with the UN Dept. of Economic & Social Affairs and Association with the UN Dept. of Global Communications. She has represented the Huairou Commission and Mayors for Peace at the UN. She is a Charter Board Member of Soroptimist International Metro New York, SIMNY Chapter. She is a member of the NGO Major Group and the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. She passionately champions all of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG 11 on the Urban Agenda and SDG 17 on Building Partnerships. She believes in the NGOCD-NY motto: *"Turn Your*

Passions into Actions for Change." Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to "Leave No One Behind". She supports the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda and the Summit for the Future along with the Global Futures Forum with C4UNWN and our partners.. Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Partners: NGOCD-NY, Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN, PVBLIC Foundation, SDG Relief Fund, Coalition for the UN We Need, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Perkins Eastman, The Stimson Center, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, RecycleGO, Global Family, Youth for a Better World-MMUN, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, Together First, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"
<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>