

## Our UN76 Dialogue

# Women's Economic Empowerment: Impacting Change



**H.E. Ms. Ilana V. Seid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations.** 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.



**Hawa Taylor-Kamara Diallo, Chief of the Civil Society Unit at the Civil Society and Advocacy Section at the UN Department of Global Communications.** She has extensive United Nations field and headquarters experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with a particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1987 in the Department of Public Information (now known as the Department of Global Communications) and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively from 1992 - 1994. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and a Partners

and Youth Officer, where she managed strategic partnerships and designed and implemented empowerment programmes for communities in informal urban settings. Ms. Diallo is a national of Sierra Leone and the United States of America.



**Cynthia Muffuh, Head of Human Rights and Gender Equality for UN Global Compact.** Cynthia joined the UN Global Compact Office in March 2022 as the Head of Human Rights and Gender Equality where she is responsible for articulating and delivering on the strategy to support business align their strategies and operations with the Ten Principles especially around human rights and gender. She brings over 20 years of experience leading global programmes on international development and social sustainability. Throughout her career she has worked across the private sector, non-profit and intergovernmental organizations engaging and working with stakeholders and partners on complex global issues. She is a dual qualified legal

practitioner with a focus on International Human Rights Law. She is married with 2 children.



**Daniel Perell, Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need & Representative to the UN for the Baha'i International Community.** Daniel joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He was a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Daniel received a JD from the University of Virginia, School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and was admitted to the New York State Bar Association.



**Hon. Hector John, Member of Parliament Salisbury, Commonwealth of Dominica.**

As a community organizer and leader, Mr. John served in different capacities at community and national levels. In 1996, He was involved in the re-vitalization of the National Youth Council of Dominica and served as chairman for three years from 1997 to 2000. From 1988 to 1990, he represented Dominica on the National Under-19 cricket team. For over 16 years, he worked in the vital banana industry employed. Mr. John graduated in 2009 with Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Monroe College, New York. While at Monroe College, he did his internship at the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority. He also headed the Multi-Cultural Students Association and the first chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). In July 2008, he represented Monroe at the Third Annual ATHGO International Global Forum at the World Bank in Washington DC. He also represented the College at the NSBE 35th Annual Convention in Las Vegas in March 2009. He was first elected to the Parliament of Dominica in December 2009, as the Member of Parliament for Salisbury Constituency and still serving in that capacity. On July 14, 2010, he became the youngest Leader of the Parliament Opposition in Dominica's political history. In September 2011, he participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, completing a one-month course in, "Accountability in Government". He continues to serve on bipartisan parliamentary committees. Recently, he was appointed National Youth Coordinator of his political party.



**Dr. Nashater Deu Solheim, CEO of Progressing Minds.** Nashater is the author of "The Leadership PIN Code-Unlocking the Key to Willing and Winning Relationships," which debuted on the 2020 Forbes list of 8 books "that make you reconsider the way you manage relationships". She is an HBR contributor, executive coach on leadership influence, and a keynote speaker on her experience as a psychologist working with psychopaths, the serving military and with leaders in business settings. She is an accomplished moderator on the international stage. Nashater has over 25 years of practical business experience across diverse sectors for governments, global corporate, SMEs and with entrepreneurs. Nashater has held executive leadership positions within strategy, and leadership development in international corporations and

SMEs. She holds a doctorate in Psychology from the UK and trained as an Expert Negotiator at Harvard Law School.



**Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique.** Dr. Bass is a Mentor Leader at Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. She is a Vice Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY and a member of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster. Dr. Bass is a Transformational Strategist Coach, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist with over 28 years of experience in the business industry. She has been a community organizer, for grassroots movements, an author, a keynote speaker, a business entrepreneur for business start-ups and a business strategist for non-profits. Her passion is helping men and women become leaders in their communities. Over the past 11 years, she has trained and mentored

thousands of corporate professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and varied industries across the globe. Every day, she looks forward to helping her clients transform their lives, so they can create wealth and have a long-lasting sustainable legacy. In 2011, she was honored as a social ambassador for her humanitarian work and her positive fight on social justice in Haiti. She has a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice, MBA in Organizational Psychology and Ph.D. in public policy and administration. Working with Al Gore she is a Mentor/Leader at Climate Reality Project and Vice President of ASPAFrique a non-profit. As President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation she is continuously working to support education, poverty alleviation, human rights, climate action, and sustainable development. Dr. Bass' goal is to educate women to become leaders of their communities.



**Anna Wnuk, Head of Community of European Women in Venture Capital, Investor Relations Manager/Chief Happiness Officer at Expor VC.** Anna has many years of experience in public administration and project management. Before she joined the Expor, first fund managed by female General Partners only, she had worked as a Head of the Office of Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of Poland in year 1995-2005, as a Head of the Office of Paged S.A. and as a Manager at a leading plastic surgery clinic in Poland. After joining the Venture Capital market she has been responsible for reporting, analysis, corporate governance and portfolio management. She has taken over the position of the Head of Community of European Women in VC, managing the network and keeping the community live through organization of various events and meet – ups. Co-author of reports and studies on diversity in venture market, speaker and mentor on various conferences. She sits at supervisory boards of gaming and technology companies. She grew up in Norway, and spend plenty of her adult live in Kenya working with a several NGOs in the region.



**Mary Muia, a Soroptimist International UN Rep, UNEA Nairobi. Kenya Public Health & Social Entrepreneur.** Mary is a 2019 Evolution Business Council (EBC) Membership Award nominee as an emerging global leader and is the first EBC member in Africa. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya East Africa region. Mary is passionate about environment, climate change, gender equality, food security, water and sanitation. She champions for rights and access to adolescents and youth reproductive health, family planning, maternal neonatal child health and access to basic services and livelihoods for women and girls living in informal settlements and rural settings. Mary is a founder director of WEMA, a community-based organization working to transform the lives of

adolescent girls and young women to access education, prevent gender-based violence, early child marriages, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful practices through social entrepreneurship and economic resiliency initiatives. My vision is to influence as a speaker, trainer, and coach in leadership as a tool to empower those working with girls and young women in vulnerable environments in Africa. A Soroptimist, wife and a mother, Mary is the Immediate past Chair and President who helped bring Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) to its inauguration in June 2020, following many years of its formation journey. Mary was recently appointed to serve as a director for Soroptimist International (SI) Board starting January 2021. and serves as a Vice Chair of the NGOCSD-NY Executive Board and on the Urban Cluster. . .



**Teddy Slavcheva, Co-Founder at Sooo Sustainability Magazine and Co-Founder at InnoP-Circular and Sustainable/ Women in Tech Oslo, Vice Leader/WomenTech Network Global Ambassador/ Nordic Women in Tech 2021 judge.** Teddy is a cofounder and partner at Sooo Sustainability - a global immersive digital media covering topics related to SDGs with articles, visuals, audio, video, AR, and VR content from all around the world. Founded in Norway Sooo has a global team of creators, ambassadors, and experts in the area of sustainability. The mission of the organization is to spread awareness, educate and inspire action towards a more sustainable future for all. Teddy is highly interested in how tech can bring positive impact and novel solutions for today's challenges, especially related to sustainability. Following that

passion she become one of the founders of InnoP - a company that develops products from recycled plastics with the use of latest technologies and smart design solutions. She is passionate about diversity in leadership and tech and holds the role of a vice leader at Women in Tech Oslo, a non-profit organization that empowers and encourages more women to thrive in the technology field and lower the barriers of entry. She is also a global ambassador at WomenTech Network on a mission to untie 100 000 women in the field and a Nordic Women in Tech Nordic Awards 2021 judge. She is the Co-founder of Sooo Sustainability awareness and impact/ and Sustainability leadership clubs in Clubhouse she hosts weekly events to highlight the latest news and updates in the area of sustainability and connect sustainability professionals and entrepreneurs around the globe.



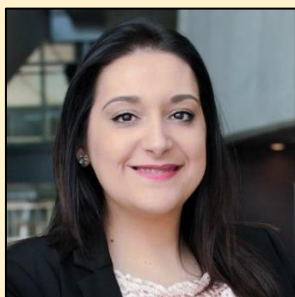
**Arthlene Legair Lawrence, Founder & CEO of Restore To Empower INC, CEO of Legair Brand Luxury Boutique.** Arthlene is an NGO focusing on underprivileged at-risk youth and abused women. She started her organization in 2015 serving her local community and then branching out into the island of Dominica. She provides uniforms, school supplies and other personal items for the students in Dominica. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, with a strong voice for those who cannot fight for themselves, she strives through her different mediums to inspire others to become the best version of themselves. Having developed her sewing curriculum which she taught at Clayton State University and many other outlets, she now seeks to take her school to the Caribbean islands, starting with her country of birth, Commonwealth of

Dominica. She will be opening the first creative arts community college for young persons to embrace skills of sewing/fashion teaching her students to repurpose used clothing to create masterpieces, Arts, Sports, Agriculture, Business Start-up and more. She's an Award-Winning INTL. Fashion Designer, Founder of ImagineMeTV Network, Arthlene has received many recognitions for her work both as a humanitarian and business owner. Her designs have graced runways in Paris, England, Hollywood, NYC and numerous platforms worldwide. Arthlene is a 4x published author, recipient of The Humanitarian of the Year, Excellence in Fashion & Innovation, Writer of the Year Inspirational Writing, Youth Empowerment Awards. Woman Owned Small Business Certification, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, Who's Who In Black Atlanta. She is dedicated to bringing change to the communities she serves and is open to new ideas that will benefit said communities. Arthlene is proud to be an Honorary Advisor for the NGOCS-D-NY.



**Julia Sora Wykoff, Founder and CEO of Zeal Cares.** Julia is a 17-year-old Social Entrepreneur and advocate for the Pediatric Oncology community from Houston, Texas. When she was 9, she attended a MMUN Youth Conference at the United Nations in New York City. At that conference, her eyes were opened to real-world problems, and she decided she wanted to give back to her own community. She heard about the struggles a close family friend was facing with dry skin during chemotherapy treatment, and she focused her efforts on supporting children going through similar experiences. Zeal Cares makes and sells all-natural lip balm, and for every lip balm that is purchased, another is gifted to a child or young adult with cancer to help alleviate their dry skin during chemotherapy treatment. Zeal Cares currently partners with more

than 30 hospitals and organizations in 18 states. Julia is passionate about supporting and improving the lives of the pediatric and AYA (adolescent and young adult) oncology community. She strives to make their treatment more comfortable by providing them with high-quality and effective body products and she is working towards her goal of being a significant source of funding for pediatric cancer research. In addition to being an Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, she is a Youth Ambassador for the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation.



**Plamena Cherneva, Founder of Nordic Women in Tech Awards and Co-organizer of European Female Founders Forum.** Plamena is an IT consultant, passionate entrepreneur and relentless advocate in making the Tech industry more attractive and welcoming to women and other minority groups. She started her first company at the age of 15 and has been a mentor, startup advisor and a motivational speaker ever since. Shocked by being the only female in her Computer Science program at university, and all the challenges she went through building a career in Tech, she started WonderCoders NGO, to support and inspire women and minority groups in taking their first steps into the Tech world. She is the founder of Nordic Women in Tech

Awards and together with the European Commission she is a Co-organizer of European Female Founders Forum. Her work has been featured in media such as EuroWoman and TechSavvy media. She has been nominated for multiple European and Global Awards for her advocacy for DEIB. "I strongly believe in unity, when solving some of the biggest problems we face worldwide. If a difference must be made, everyone should be involved. For years our focus has been bringing likeminded communities together and It is my honor to take part in Women's Economic Empowerment: Impacting Change, because united, we make significant impact."



**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.



**Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. Director of UN Relations for Global Family.** Margo is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum. She is a Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and a Member of the UN Global Ocean Decade Stakeholder Forum. The NGOCSD-NY were pleased to be Partners of the UN Secretary-General’s UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and they are proud to be Partners of UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. She represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Charter Board member of the Soroptimist International Metro New York - SIMNY Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is a member of the Women’s Major Group for the UN HLPF.

Margo is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated to supporting the causes related to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects.. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCSD-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 SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we “Leave No One Behind.”. Recently, Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from United States President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

**Partners: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Coalition for the UN We Need, Baha’i International Community, SDG Relief Fund, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, The Stimson Center, Together First, Urban Cluster, Global Family, Soroptimist International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Sooo.Sustainability, Magazine, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.**

***“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”***

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>