



25 April 2016

First GMG Multi-Stakeholder Meeting in preparation for the
High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees
and Migrants

UNDERSTANDING LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

PANELLIST'S BIOS

(by session)

Opening

Ms. Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women since March 2011. She acted as interim head of UN Women from March to August 2013. Prior to joining UN Women, Ms. Puri was the Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). Ms. Puri joined United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2002 after a 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service. She served as UNCTAD's Acting Deputy Secretary-General from 2007-2009.

Mr. Karel J. G. van Oosterom is the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York. Mr. van Oosterom's most recent posting was as the Director-General for Political Affairs in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a post he held since 2011. Prior to that, between 2006 and 2011, he was Foreign Policy and Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister. A career diplomat for almost 30 years, he held several positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Head of Mission at the Dutch Embassy in Beijing, from 2002 to 2006. During a six-year stint in the Ministry's European Affairs Department, he served most recently as the Department's Deputy Director from 2000 to 2002, as well as Head and Deputy Head of the Western European Division from 1998 to 2000 and from 1996 to 1998 respectively.

Mr. Virachi Plasai is Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations. Prior to assuming his appointment, Mr. Plasai was Ambassador of Thailand to the Netherlands, beginning in 2009, after serving his country in a variety of international economic, legal and diplomatic capacities. Beginning his diplomatic service in 1987 in his country's Department of Political Affairs, Mr. Plasai progressed through posts in the Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, eventually becoming Director-General of the Department of International Economic Affairs, in 2007. He was also a member of his Government's legal counsel in several disputes heard by the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 1998 to 2003.

Panel I:

Mr. Bela Hovy serves as the Chief of the Migration Section, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) at the United Nations in New York. From 1993 to 2005, Mr. Hovy was in charge of statistics at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland. Before that, he worked at the Population Division in New York (1989-1993) and at IFORD, a United Nations training institute based in Cameroon (1988-1989).

Ms. Ninette Kelley is the Director of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR)'s Liaison Office in New York. She has served as the Regional Representative of UNHCR in Lebanon since May 2010. Previously, she served with the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada. Between 1988 and 1990, Kelley held various policy and consultative roles with international humanitarian agencies and served as the Executive Director of the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement (WGRR), Toronto.

Ms. Susana B. Adamo is a Research Scientist at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) of Columbia University and an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Undergraduate Program in Sustainable Development of the same university. She is also a member the Columbia Population Research center and co-Coordinator of the Population and Environment Research Network (PERN). Her research interests include environmental migration and displacement, social vulnerability and environmental change, rural/urban demography, and all aspects of data integration related to demography and environment links, particularly global and regional georeferenced population databases. She holds a B.S. in geography from the University of Buenos Aires, an M.S. in population studies from FLACSO-Mexico, and a Ph.D. in demography/sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ms. Michele Klein Solomon is the Director of the Secretariat of Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Previously she served as Director of the Migration Policy and Research Department at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Prior to joining IOM, Ms. Klein Solomon served as an Attorney Adviser with the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser and as the Department's Principal Refugee and Migration Lawyer.

Ms. Lisa Simeone is founding Secretary of Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA), an international association of experts working together to address international migration from a global, multidisciplinary and rights-based perspective. Ms. Simeone has more than twenty years of experience as an Educator, Organizer, and Policy Specialist in the field of migration. Between 2000 and 2004, Ms. Simeone headed the Region V Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During her tenure, Ms. Simeone focused her efforts on increasing access to federal programs by racially and linguistically marginalized populations, as well as people with disabilities. In 2004, Ms. Simeone began an extended collaboration with the migrant branch of the International Labor Organization (ILO), in Geneva, Switzerland, as a Project Officer and Consultant. With GMPA, she has participated in a number of international panels and consultations.

Ms. Ann Pawliczko is Senior Emerging Population Issues Advisor in the Population and Development Branch at the United Nations Population Fund which she joined in 1996. She serves as Focal Point for population ageing and migration and collaborates with UN agencies and NGOs, oversees projects, and prepares articles, reports, and speeches on these issues. She oversaw the work of the Global Migration Group (GMG) on "International Migration and Human Rights" and the publication "Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and A Challenge" in collaboration with HelpAge International and over twenty other UN and international organizations. Prior to joining UNFPA, Dr. Pawliczko held positions at the United Nations Population Division, was Assistant Professor of sociology at Fordham University, and conducted research at the Population Council. She holds a Ph.D. in demography and urban sociology from Fordham University.

Panel II:

Mr. Xavier Devictor is managing the Global Program on Forced Displacement (GPDFD) at the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1996. Prior to joining the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, he held various positions working on fragile situations mainly in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. His last position was Country Manager for Poland and the Baltic Countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. Devictor worked in the private sector in Central Europe and in UNHCR. He holds a Master's degree in Management and Economics from "Ecole Polytechnique" and a Master's degree in Management and Engineering from "Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees".

Mr. Owen Shumba is the Team Leader for the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Group at UNDP, New York. He has over twenty years of experience in livelihoods, recovery, natural resources management and early recovery programming. He has represented UNDP at various policy dialogues and has been involved in policy guidelines around early recovery, livelihoods and economic recovery. He was extensively involved in the finalization of the UN Policy, the Early Recovery Working Group and Funds for Youth Development and Employment.

Mr. Pedro De Vasconcelos is Programme Coordinator of the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which he joined in 2007. Prior to that, Mr De Vasconcelos served at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), worked at the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in Washington DC, and was responsible for launching and coordinating the remittance programme for Latin America and the Caribbean until early 2007.

Ms. Marcy Hersh, Senior Advocacy Officer advocates on behalf of displaced women and girls in countries affected by conflict and natural disasters, ensuring that the UN system addresses their protection needs. Marcy has more than 12 years of humanitarian experience working in policy, advocacy, research and programming on gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, and the prevention of/response to gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian settings. She has worked for UN agencies, including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in South Sudan and UN Women in Haiti, as well as international, national and grassroots NGOs. She has significant field experience in emergency and protracted conflict settings, working in more than 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Asia.

Mr. Kerry Neal has been the Child Protection Specialist, Justice for Children, at UNICEF HQ since 2012, where he manages portfolios related to children and migration; and children and the rule of law. Kerry is a lawyer by training, and has spent many years working in the field of justice for children and migration, as well as in other areas of child protection, most notably the prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking. His career has included work with NGOs, IGOs and government, and prior to New York he has worked in locations as diverse as the Balkans, Haiti, Iran, Burundi and Kazakhstan. As well as his professional legal qualifications, he has a Masters in Law and Human Rights, and a Bachelor's degree in Social Policy and Public Administration.

Mr. Pierre Bertrand is a senior practitioner in public diplomacy and advocacy on global humanitarian, peace and security topics. As a former seasoned refugee affairs professional, with a formal training in international law, he presently communicates and offers expert policy advice in relevant settings on a range of challenging issues, notably root causes of contemporary conflicts, population displacements, asylum/migration nexus, conflict prevention and resolution and the conformity of counter-terrorism measures with applicable standards under international law.

Prior to that, he had a 30-year career at the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). His tenures included operational leadership responsibilities in critical field assignments in Africa, Middle East and South-West Asia as well as policy-making functions and senior representation mandates at UNHCR HQs in Geneva and UN in New York. In his latest role as Director of UNHCR's office in New York and Special Advisor to the High Commissioner for Refugees (2005 to 2009), he oversaw strategic engagement with deliberative and legislative UN entities respectively handling political, humanitarian, human rights and development agenda.