

Twelfth GFMD Summit
20-24 January 2020
Quito, Ecuador

Overview of Speakers' Biographies
Roundtable Sessions

Roundtable 1.2: Facilitating social and economic inclusion

RT Co-Chair:

- **Ms. Lisbeth Fransplass**, Director General, Ministry of Education and Research Department of Integration, Norway
- **H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Panelists:

- State Representative (**tbc**)
- **Amb. Laura Thompson**, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration
- **Ms. Asako Okai**, General Assistant Secretary General, United Nations Development Programme
- **Ms. Ghada Hammouda**, Chief Marketing Officer, QalaaHoldings
- **Mr. Khalid Mouna**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University Moulay Ismaïl of Meknès
- **Ms. Weronika Przychodzien**, Youth Representative

Rapporteur:

- **Ms. Farhat Ayesha**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Ms. Lisbeth Fransplass, Director General, Ministry of Education and Research
Department of Integration, Norway



Lisbeth Fransplass is Director General of the Department for Integration at the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. She has held the position since February 2017. Prior to this, she had a number of management positions in both private and public sectors, including the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration, International Service System Norway (ISS), and Personalshuset Staffing Group. She has also served as chairman and boardmember of companies such as the Norwegian Federation of Service Industries and Retail Trade (NHO SH). Fransplass has a master's degree in Political Science from the

University of Oslo.

H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva



Sek Wannamethee was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva in March 2017. Prior to his assignment in Geneva, he was Director-General of the Department of Information and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand from 2013-2017 and Director-General of the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs from 2012-2013. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991, Ambassador Wannamethee has served various positions at the headquarter in Bangkok and abroad,

including among others, Bureau Chief of the Policy and Planning Office, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington DC, and Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN in Geneva.

Ambassador Wannamethee was educated at Harrow School, United Kingdom, and graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom), with a Bachelor degree in Economics and a Master's in Economic History.

Panelists:

Amb. Laura Thompson

Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration



Has been the Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) since 2009. Possesses vast experience in diplomacy, multilateral negotiation, development, and humanitarian affairs. She has provided leadership for multilateral initiatives and negotiations across the fields of migration, refugees, IDPs, humanitarian assistance and human rights, gender matters, and the environment.

Prior to joining the IOM, she was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva and held other diplomatic positions in Geneva and Paris. In addition to her diplomatic experience, she has worked as a Legal Officer for international organizations in Geneva.

During her diplomatic career, she has held leadership responsibilities within humanitarian affairs at key governing bodies, including Chair (2008-2009) and Vice-Chair (2007-2008) of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Chair of the Executive Committee of the IOM (1996-1997), and Vice-Chair of the Council of the IOM (1997-1998). She also acted as chair or vice-chair of governing bodies of the United Nations Compensation Commission, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the International Labour Organization.

Ambassador Thompson holds a Master's degree in International Relations, specialising in international law, from the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva. She also holds a Law Degree from the University of Costa Rica and has completed Executive Education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and at INSEAD.

In addition to Spanish, her mother tongue, Ambassador Thompson is fluent in English, French, and Greek, and has a basic knowledge of Italian and Portuguese.

Ms. Asako Okai

General Assistant Secretary General, United Nations Development Programme



Ms. Asako Okai officially began her role as UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Director for the Crisis Bureau on August 22, 2018. In this role, she leads UNDP's corporate crisis-related work and drives UNDP's vision and priorities for crisis prevention, response, and recovery.

Ms. Okai has over 30 years of experience in the Japanese Foreign Service and in the United Nations. She possesses an extensive track record in development, humanitarian response, disaster management, and peace building work at both the strategic and operational levels.

Throughout her career, she has closely engaged in the evolution of international cooperation frameworks in different capacities, including the forging of historic institutional reforms of the international cooperation apparatus in Japan, and implementing innovative financial mechanisms to support reliable humanitarian funding model as Japan's Director of Humanitarian Assistance. Ms. Okai has held several diplomatic senior positions worldwide and worked closely with the United Nations Headquarters, both in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN and as a Senior Member of the Office of the President of the 66th UN General Assembly, most recently serving as Consul-General of Japan in Vancouver, Canada.

She holds a Master's of Arts in History of Art, Emmanuel College, Cambridge University and a Bachelor's degree in Law, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. Born in 1966, she is married.

Ms. Lindiwe Sephomolo

Association of Lesotho Employers and Business



Adv. Lindiwe Sephomolo is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Lesotho Employers and Business, ALEB, which is the most representative employer's organization in the Kingdom of Lesotho. She specializes in labour law and amongst a list of services the ALEB provides, it provides legal services to its members as its niche. She has been working with the employers and business since 1999. She has since attained the status of Kings Counsel.

Adv. Sephomolo is active in numerous national bodies where she represents employers and she also participates in regional employers groupings such as the SADC Private Sector Forum and other international meetings.

She has previously worked as the Chief Executive Officer of the Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho and has been advisor to the Ministry of Trade and Industry where she established a One Stop Business Facilitation Centre for business.

Mr. Khalid Mouna,

Associate Professor of Anthropology, University Moulay Ismaïl of Meknès



INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University Moulay Ismaïl of Meknès.

Coordinator of the Research Group: Social Changes and Space Recompositions.

Member of the editorial board of the review Espace-Temps.

Member of the Scientific Committee of the review FuoriLuogo Journal, Federico II University, Naples.

Professor at Ca'Foscari University Venice / Italy, MIM Masters: Crossing the Mediterranean: towards Investment and

Integration.

Membre of Arab Council for the Social Sciences.

HIGHER STUDY

PHD in Anthropology of the University of Saint-Denis Paris VIII. 2008.

Associate Professor, Since 2015.

Assistant professor, 2010

Advanced studies in Political Sociology and Comparative Politics at the University of Nanterre Paris X. 2002-2003.

Bachelor of Public Law option Political Sciences of the Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences of Tangier. 2000-2001.

PROFESSOR GUEST AND CHAIR

Erasmus Plus Scholarship for the University of Porto. Portugal. 2019.

Visiting Professor for the IISMM Section Chair. EHESS. Paris, France. 2016.

Erasmus Plus Scholarship for the University of Ca 'Foscari. 2016-2017.

Visiting Professor at Paul Valery III University. Montpellier, France. 2012.

RESEARCH THEME

Anthropology of drugs

International mobility and forms of migration.

The body and gender

Regional identity and political mobilization

Ms. Weronika Przychodzien, Youth Representative

Weronika is a young Polish activist focused on social integration of migrants and minority groups, building tolerance, and human rights. She has worked and volunteered in projects that spanned Poland, Slovakia, and Finland, working with nationals of those countries, as well as migrants and refugees from the East such as Afghanistan, and minority groups such as Roma.

She is a lead volunteer at the Mentoring for Integration of Children affected by Migration (MINT), implemented by Terres de Hommes, where she facilitates the integration of migrant and refugee children in the local host communities by introducing them to other children in the community, and organizing common outdoor sports and socio-cultural activities. She has funded an NGO to create exchange programmes for youth, focused on migration and human rights, in order to create an environment of tolerance and facilitate integration between people who are seen as different.

Additional information:

- She was selected and participated in over 50 youth exchanges, seminars, training courses under Erasmus+ and Youth in Actions programmes. One common topic of all of was integration and migration.

Ms. Farhat Ayesha, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva



Farhat Ayesha is Rapporteur of Round Table 1.2 of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) during Quito Summit 2020. She is serving as Counsellor in Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva.

Farhat's expertise includes; human rights, humanitarian issues, sustainable development and peace and security. Her recent focus is on humanitarian issues of refugees, migrants, emergency humanitarian assistance, disasters, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and organizations such as; UNHCR, UNDRR, ICRC, IFRC, OCHA, IOM and GFMD.

She had served as Director (Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad. She had also served in Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai (China), High Commission of Pakistan Singapore, Embassy of Pakistan Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York (USA).

Farhat has represented Pakistan at numerous multilateral fora: UN General Assembly (2nd & 3rd Committees), ECOSOC, NAM, Treaty bodies, Governing bodies of IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDRR and many intergovernmental conferences.

She has served as Rapporteur of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR during its 70th Session (October 2018 to October 2019). She also served as Vice Chair in the Bureau of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2010-11.

She holds a Masters degree in English Literature. She has undertaken courses in International Law and Diplomatic Practice, drafting of Resolutions, Deposit and Registration of Treaties, Disaster Management, Human Rights and Civilian Staff Officers Course.

She is married, having one son.