

Twelfth GFMD Summit

20-24 January 2020

Quito, Ecuador

Speakers' Biographies - Roundtable 2.2 Communicating effectively with migrants

RT Co-Chairs:

- **Mr. Alexander da Costa**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Gambia to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (*also Rapporteur of the session*)
- **Ambassador Evan P. Garcia**, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
- **Mr. Alex Zalami**, International Relations Adviser, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization

Panelists:

- **Mr. Thibault Chareton**, Project Management - Media and Migration, United Nations Alliance for Civilization, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- **Mr. Rob Whitby**, Deputy Head of Migration and Modern Slavery Department, Department for International Development, United Kingdom
- **Mr. William Gois**, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
- **Mr. Alberto Echavarría**, Vice President Legal and Social Affairs, Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI)
- **Mr. Mohammed Sadiki**, President of the Municipality of Rabat

Mr. Alexander da Costa, Deputy Permanent Representative of Gambia to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva



Alexander da Costa is a highly well-developed and organised Strategic and Corporate Communications Specialist, with 30 years working at Senior levels in Government, Public, Not-for-Profit and private sectors. He studied Law at Cardiff University, Wales, UK; Post Graduate studies in Public and Private Sector Strategy at Kingston University, Surrey, UK; was certified a practitioner in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by the Gambia Judiciary and also certified by the Public Utility Research Centre (PURC) and the World Bank (WB) in Utility Regulation and Strategy at The University of Florida, USA.

Alexander's knowledge and experience spans across International development processes of the UN, EU and other multilateral agencies coupled with adept skills and abilities in International Relations, Diplomacy, Governance, Regulatory Affairs, Media & Public Relations. He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations UK, Vice President of The Public Relations Association, The Gambia, a member of The Gambia Press Union (GPU), a member of The National Union of Journalists (NUJ), UK and a member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). In addition, Alex was the Head of Media, Information & Technology at the Coordinating Secretariat for the African Union (AU) Banjul Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Banjul in July 2006.

Alexander was also Special Assistant and Adviser to late Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara – The first and former President of The Republic of The Gambia. He travelled extensively with Sir Dawda Jawara to numerous international meetings whilst managing his private, and official public engagements. Prior to becoming Managing Director at Prudent Trust in August 2014 and subsequently Chief Executive Officer of The BEST Co Ltd in November 2014, Alexander worked at the UN in The Gambia.

He served in multiple positions, first as Head of Finance, Resource Mobilization and Communication Specialist for UNDP, and subsequently as UN Coordination Specialist and Special Assistant to UN Resident Coordinator in The Gambia. In August 2017, after the transition and change of Government in The Gambia, Alexander was appointed to the Foreign Service of The Gambia. He is now posted as Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland and accredited to the Swiss Confederation as Minister- Counsellor. Alexander doubles up as The Mission's expert on Migration (IOM), Humanitarian Affairs (UNHCR), Human Rights (OCHR) and Intellectual Property (WIPO) as among others.

Ambassador Evan P. Garcia

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva



Ambassador Evan P. Garcia serves as the current Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, a post he first held from 2010 to 2013. A career diplomat who joined the Foreign Service in 1982, he brings over thirty years of professional diplomatic experience to his post, including as Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Non-resident Ambassador to Ireland (May 2016 to January 2017) and Undersecretary for Policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 2013 to 2016.

In his foreign assignments, he served as a Consul and Economic Officer in the Embassy of the Philippines to Japan, and as a Political Officer, Acting Consul General, and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of the Philippines to the United States of America. He has a License in International Relations and Political Science from the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Foreign Service, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Mr. Alex Zalami

International Relations Adviser, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization



Alex Zalami joined the UAE Ministry of Labour in January, 2007, where he serves as Advisor to the Minister on international relations, regional and international cooperation, and labor mobility administration. Alex has served as a GFMD focal point for the UAE since 2008, represented the UAE as co-chair of the GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on the Protection and Empowerment of Migrant Workers and member of the GFMD Assessment Group. He co-chaired roundtable sessions at successive GFMD summits.

Prior to assuming his position at the UAE Ministry of labour, Alex established a center of business ethics and corporate governance at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and served as its director until December 2006.

Alex holds a post-graduate degree in Mathematics from California State University and another in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Rob Whitby

Deputy Head of Migration and Modern Slavery Department, Department for International Development, United Kingdom



Rob Whitby has worked for 11 years in the field of international development and is currently the Deputy Head of Migration and Modern Slavery Department in the UK's Department for International Development. Rob previously worked for the European Union in Turkey on the €6 billion Facility for Refugees, assisting the Turkish Government with migration management and integration for Syrian refugees. Rob has an MA in International Relations and also has expertise in education policy having been a teacher and worked on education for many years also with the Department for International Development.

Mr. Thibault Chareton, Project Management - Media and Migration, United Nations Alliance for Civilization , United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)



Thibault Chareton is the Project Management Specialist – Media and Migration at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the leading UN entity for intercultural and interreligious dialogue. In that role, he designs and implements media projects that impact reporting on migration and migrant communities. Since 2015, Thibault has focused on the #SpreadNoHate initiative, a platform engaging global media in a dialogue on hate speech against minority groups and the sharing of best practices to combat it. He also manages the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival on migration, social inclusion, and diversity, in partnership with the International

Organization for Migration (UNAOC), and manages all digital communications of the organization.

Previously, Thibault was the Policy Program Officer at the French-American Foundation in New York, where he developed various transatlantic initiatives, including an international fellowship and award program for migration journalists. As part of his programs, Thibault has partnered with a number of foundations, including the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Knight Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

A native of France, Thibault holds a master's degree in English literature from the University of Paris IV Sorbonne (2006) and a master's degree in Journalism from New York University (2009).

Mr. William Gois

Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia



William Gois is the Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), a regional network of nongovernment organizations, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers and members of their families. He also chairs Migrants Rights International (MRI), an international non-government organization with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). He chaired the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), a coalition of regional and global networks of migrant associations and trade unions from 2013-2018. He sits in the Steering Committee of the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), a civil society led multistakeholders' platform among democracy advocates and human rights defenders dedicated to the strengthening of democracy and Human Rights. He represents MFA

For over ten years, he is at the forefront of international advocacy efforts engaging and influencing international and multilateral organizations to promote and protect the human rights and labor rights of migrant workers and members of their families through fair and informed migration and sustainable development policies. He works closely with UN Treaty Bodies, with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Committee on Migrant Workers and other special mandates. He also heads a team of MFA members to the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization to monitor the development of labour migration issues within the ILO framework.

Mr. Gois represents MFA in the International Steering Committee of the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. He co-chaired in the 2011 GFMD-Civil Society Day. He leads and facilitates the engagement of MFA to the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue where MFA as civil a society is officially invited as an observer. With his leadership, MFA was invited to do a research on recruitment with the UAE government for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

Mr. Alberto Echavarría

Vice President Legal and Social Affairs, Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI)



Mr. Alberto ECHAVARRÍA is a Colombian lawyer with a specialization degree in Financial Law. He has worked as an independent lawyer and has experience working with companies and organizations across the financial and industrial sector.

He has worked with The National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI) since 1991. Currently, he is the Legal Affairs Vice-President of ANDI. He is Employer Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office as well as member of the Committee of Freedom of Association, which is a special procedure within the ILO for complaints regarding freedom of association, and GAN Board Member. He also attends the International Labour Conference (ILC).

He has been invited to participate as a professor and international conferencist by many international universities and institutions.

In addition, he has published several law articles in national reviews.

Mr. Mohammed Sadiki, President of the Municipality of Rabat



Mr. Mohammed Sadiki has been President of the Municipality of Rabat since 2015.

He began his political career as a Municipal Councillor in the Municipality of Rabat from 2003 to 2009. From 2009 to 2015, he was Vice President of the Rabat Salé Zemmour Zaer Regional Council.

Throughout his career, he has held several management positions in the Autonomous Water, Electricity and Sanitation Distribution Company of the Rabat Region, as well as in the private sector. Mr. Sadiki was also Director of the cabinet of the Minister of Equipment, Transport and Logistics.

Mr. Sadiki holds a Master's degree in Management of Public Services, as well as a diploma of State Engineer in Civil Engineering from the Mohammedia School.

Mr. Sadiki was born in Goulmima/Errachidia in 1960. He is married and has four children.