



# SDG 16 CONFERENCE

## Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



### SPEAKER BIOS

#### DAY 1 – 28 APRIL 2021



**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization**

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency.

Born in the Eritrean city of Asmara, Dr Tedros graduated from the University of Asmara with a Bachelor of Biology, before earning a Master of Science (MSc) in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London, a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and an Honorary Fellowship from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Following his studies, Dr Tedros returned to Ethiopia to support the delivery of health services, first working as a field-level malariologist, before heading a regional health service and later serving in Ethiopia's federal government for over a decade as Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012, he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system, built on the foundation of universal health coverage and provision of services to all people, even in the most remote areas.

Under his leadership, Ethiopia expanded its health infrastructure, developed innovative health financing mechanisms, and expanded its health workforce. A major component of reforms he drove was the creation of a primary health care extension programme that deployed 40 000 female health workers throughout the country. A significant result was an approximate 60% reduction in child and maternal mortality compared to 2000 levels.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2016, he elevated health as a political issue nationally, regionally and globally. In this role, he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to his election as Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros held many leadership positions in global health, including as Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board.



**Mr. Yamauchi Yoshimitsu, Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice, Japan**

Yamauchi Yoshimitsu was appointed public prosecutor in 1995 and has extensive working experience in the field of criminal justice and international cooperation. As public prosecutor, Yamauchi served with the Special Investigation Department of the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office and has played an active role in conducting investigations of prominent foreign bribery cases and security fraud cases.

Yamauchi also has extensive working experience as a government attorney. He worked on the negotiation of the first Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with the United States along with various international works, including the negotiation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. In addition, Yamauchi has, for more than two decades, attended countless international conferences including the Working Group on Bribery of the OECD, United Nations, G7, and the FATF.

Yamauchi is currently the Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice in charge of international affairs and human rights, and he served as executive secretary of Kyoto Congress National Executive Committee.



**Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS)**

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu is the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. She assumed her role in May 2017.

Ms. 'Utoikamanu is responsible for monitoring and following up on the implementation of all three Programmes of Action under the purview of UN-OHRLS. She is also called on to advocate for the issues and concerns of these vulnerable countries as well as to ensure their integration into and coherence with global processes, including those related to the 2030 Agenda and other global development frameworks. Ms. 'Utoikamanu also coordinates advocacy work related to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in forums and platforms outside the United Nations.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. 'Utoikamanu was Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Tourism, Tonga; Acting Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the Council of the University of the South Pacific (2015); Deputy Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of the Council of the University of the South Pacific (2009-2016); Deputy Director General and Director of Education, Training and Human Development of the Secretariat of Pacific Community (2009-2015); Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the Government of Tonga to the United Nations, United States of America, Cuba and Venezuela and High Commissioner to Canada (2005-2009); and Secretary for Foreign Affairs and European Commission's National Authorizing Officer for Tonga (2002-2005).

A Tongan national, Ms. 'Utoikamanu speaks Tongan and English. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics (1980) and a Masters in Commerce in Economics (1983) from the University of Auckland in New Zealand.



**Ms. Birgitta Tazelaar, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands**

Birgitta Tazelaar is the deputy Director-General for International Cooperation at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a career diplomat with over 25 years experience in political affairs, human rights and development cooperation. Birgitta has worked in The Middle East, Southern Africa and the UK in a variety of bilateral and non-governmental organizations, in both advisory and senior management posts. Before her current job as deputy Director-General, she was Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department preceded by serving as head of Mission in Ramallah managing amongst others a sizeable development cooperation program. From 2008-2011, Birgitta was the political counsellor at the Dutch Embassy in London, responsible for foreign policy areas ranging from security files such as NATO and nuclear, to EU external policy and various crises areas worldwide. Other postings included deputy head of the human rights division in the Hague where she was active on promoting women's rights in the UN and spokesperson for the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Birgitta worked amongst others for the Netherlands Development Agency, mainly in Botswana working in regional planning. Birgitta studied Human Geography in Utrecht and did research in Kenya and Spain.



**Mr. Olivier De Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**

Mr. De Schutter was appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights by the Human Rights Council at its 43rd session, in March 2020. A Professor of Law at UCLouvain and at SciencesPo (Paris), Mr. De Schutter is also a member of the Global Law School Faculty at New York University.

He has taught human rights at the University of Leicester (United Kingdom), at the College of Europe (2008-2016), at Columbia University (2008-2013) and Yale University (2016-2017). He was a visiting professor at UC Berkeley in 2013-2014, where he helped launch the Berkeley Food Institute. In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious Francqui Prize for his contribution to international human rights law and to the theory of governance.

An expert on social and economic rights and on economic globalization and human rights, Mr. De Schutter served between 2004 and 2008 as a Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). He was then appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, a mandate which he fulfilled between 2008 and 2014. He was elected a Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which he joined in 2015 and to which he was reelected in 2019. He resigned from that position in May 2020 in order to accept the mandate of Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Mr. De Schutter has published widely on economic and social rights and on the relationship between human rights and development. He has also published extensively on transnational corporations and human rights. He is the founder and Editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Human Rights / Journal européen des droits de l'homme.



**Mr. Harold Hongju Koh, Senior Advisor, Office of the Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State**

Harold Hongju Koh is Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School. He returned to Yale Law School in January 2013 after serving for nearly four years as the 22nd Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State.

Professor Koh is one of the country's leading experts in public and private international law, national security law, and human rights. He first began teaching at Yale Law School in 1985 and served as its fifteenth Dean from 2004 until 2009. From 2009 to 2013, he took leave as the Martin R. Flug '55 Professor of International Law to join the State Department as Legal Adviser, service for which he received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award. From 1993 to 2009, he was the Gerard C. & Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, and from 1998

to 2001, he served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Professor Koh has received seventeen honorary degrees and more than thirty awards for his human rights work, including awards from Columbia Law School and the American Bar Association for his lifetime achievements in international law. He has authored or co-authored eight books, published more than 200 articles, testified regularly before Congress, and litigated numerous cases involving international law issues in both U.S. and international tribunals. He is a Fellow of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and a member of the Council of the American Law Institute.

He holds a B.A. degree from Harvard College and B.A. and M.A. degrees from Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was Developments Editor of the Harvard Law Review. Before coming to Yale, he served as a law clerk for Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the United States Supreme Court and Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, worked as an attorney in private practice in Washington, and served as an Attorney-Adviser for the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice.



**Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union**

Ms. Hanna Serwaah Tetteh of Ghana assumed her functions as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in January 2019. She brings to this position decades of progressively responsible experience at the national, regional and international levels.

She is the immediate past Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Ms. Tetteh has senior level government experience having served previously as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, a member of the National Security Council and the Armed Forces Council (2013-2017). From 2014 to 2015 she was the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers as well as Chairperson of the Mediation & Security Council of the ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States). Prior to that she served as Minister for Trade and Industry (2009- 2013), Member of the Economic Management Team, Chairperson of the Ghana Free Zones Board, Member of the National Development Planning Commission and Board Member of the Millennium Development Authority. She served two terms as a Member of the Parliament of Ghana representing the Awutu Senya Constituency (2000-2005), and the Awutu Senya West Constituency (2013-2017). Ms. Tetteh was previously involved in high level mediation activities when she was appointed Co- Facilitator in the High-Level Forum for the Revitalisation of the Agreement for the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan (2017-2018).



Earlier in her career she was a practicing lawyer with experience in Government, the private sector and private practice. Ms. Tetteh holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Ghana, Legon, and thereafter completed two years of professional legal training at the Ghana School of Law, she was called to the Ghana Bar in October 1992.



**Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, DPPA/DPO**

On 1 January 2019, Mr. Jenča was appointed as Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the newly created United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. Mr. Jenča served before (2015-2019) in the Department of Political Affairs dealing with the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and West Asia, as well as the Decolonization Unit and the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Prior to 2015, Mr. Jenča served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. He was previously Director of the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, as well as Ambassador and Head of Mission to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Centre in Uzbekistan. He also served as Ambassador and Representative of Slovakia to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union and Ambassador of Slovakia to Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, as well as in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and in diplomatic missions in Ireland and Mexico.

Mr. Jenča holds a Doctor of Law degree from Comenius University in Bratislava. He studied foreign trade at the University of Economics in Bratislava; diplomacy and international relations at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Master of Arts), and diplomacy at Hoover Institution of Stanford University.



**Mr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, FAO**

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he was the World Bank Group Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay since November 2016 and before the Bank Dr. Torero led the Division of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies mostly in

analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in

explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Dr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Pacific, Lima, Peru. He is a professor on leave at the University of the Pacific (Perú) and an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany and has also published in top journals (QJE, Econometric Theory, AER-Applied Microeconomics, RSTAT, Labor Economics and many other top journals). Dr. Torero has received in 2000 the Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, won the Award for Outstanding Research on Development given by The Global Development Network, twice, in 2000 and in 2002 and received the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2014.



**Ms. Asako Okai, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Crisis Bureau, UNDP**

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.

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

Throughout her career, she 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 models as Japan's Director of Humanitarian Assistance. Okai 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 of Arts in History of Art, Emmanuel College, Cambridge University and a bachelor's degree in Law, Hitotsubashi University, Japan.



**Mr. Diego García-Sayán, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers**

Mr. Diego García-Sayán was appointed Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in December 2016. Mr. García-Sayán was a judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for two consecutive terms. During his tenure, he was elected Vice-President of the Court (2008-2009) and President of the Court for two consecutive terms (2009-2013).

Mr. García-Sayán has broad experience working for multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Previous responsibilities include: representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Peace Agreements at El Salvador and for the subsequent verification of the agreements, reporting directly to the Security Council; member and Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; member of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations System of Administration of Justice, appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2006; Head of the Electoral Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala during the general elections (2007).

Mr. García-Sayán was Minister of Justice during the democratic transition in Peru and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was also President of the High Level Commission to design and implement the Museum of Memory, Tolerance and Social Inclusion in Peru, inaugurated in December 2015.

Mr. García-Sayán is the author of several books on international law and development.



**Ms. Lynrose Jane D. Genon, Executive Council of Young Women+ Leaders for Peace, Philippines**

Lynrose is a member of the Executive Council of Young Women+ Leaders for Peace-Philippines (YW+PL-PH), a network of young women and young LGBT leaders from the Philippines who are agents of peace and advocates of human rights, women's rights, gender equality, and peace and security. She is also the co-Director of Project YACAP ('Youth Amplifying, Co-Creating and Advocating Peace'), a youth leadership development program for peace which envisions to build a network of young people in Mindanao

with a view to nurturing the culture of peace. She is also one of the participants of the 16x 16 Initiative. She is currently a Faculty Member at the Department of English of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT). She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Master of Arts degree in Culture and Arts Studies. She focuses on Youth Leadership, Education and Peace.