



Co NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

Environmental, social and economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

~ "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change" ~

NGOCS D General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, February 25th 2015



H.E. Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York. Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona served as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2009. Prior to this he served as the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) established by the Government of Sri Lanka since 2006. Dr. Palitha Kohona who hails from Matale, Sri Lanka, received his secondary education in Sri Lanka at St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia. He proceeded to obtain a LL.B (Hons) at the University of Sri Lanka and, having been awarded an A.N.U. Scholarship, a LL.M from the Australian National University. He obtained a Doctorate from Cambridge University, UK, for the thesis – ‘The Regulation of International Economic Relations through Law’, subsequently published by Kluwer, Netherlands. He is also an Attorney-at-Law, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Dr. Kohona has published extensively and

delivered lectures on areas such as, terrorism, international organized crime, the environment, international treaty law, etc. Dr. Kohona was a member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly in 2006-2011. He has led official level delegations to a wide range of countries on bilateral matters, and political, trade, environment, aviation and fisheries issues. He is currently the Co-Chair of the UN Ad-Hoc Working Group on Marine Resources Beyond National Jurisdiction, the Chairman of the UN Ad-Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and a Vice President of the 23rd Meeting of the States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention. He is the Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Territories Occupied since 1967. He is also a Patron of Sustainability Inc. and a Patron of the U Thant Institute. He was invited to be an Honorary Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association. From 1995-2006 He served as the Chief of the Treaty Section, Department of Legal Affairs of the UN. As Chief of the Treaty Section he was a recipient of the UN21 Pin. He returned to Sri Lanka on the invitation of President Mahinda Rajapaksa to assume office as the Secretary General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) in 2006.



H.E. Ms. Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations. Ms. Flores Flake was re-appointed in January 2014 by the new government of President Juan Orlando Hernandez to represent the country, as the Ambassador of Honduras to the United Nations. Ms. Flores Flake was chosen as the first female Ambassador of Honduras to the United Nations representing the Government of Unity and Reconciliation in 2010. In 2011, Ambassador Flores Flake became a Member of the Executive Board of International Association of Permanent Representatives. In 2012 she was endorsed by the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and was elected Vice-president of the United Nations General Assembly's 67th Session. A leading political figure, Ms. Flores Flake was elected to public office with the highest percentage of votes in the country. She also became the youngest and the first woman to hold the position of the First Vice-president of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras (2006-2010). She was President of the

Ethics and Transparency Committee and participated in the Judicial Committee. She also was the liaison between Congress and G16 and liaison with the Ministry of Finance for Project Budgets and Decentralized Municipal Poverty Eradication Projects. She is a liaison between UNDP and the Honduran government since 2014 working on Sustainable Development goals and the Post 2015 development agenda. As an Entrepreneur and Youth Leader, Ms. Flores Flake has been an active member of Rotary Club International since very young. Since 2004 she has been a member and for a couple years presided on the Board for the Thorax Hospital in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She was part of the GLOBE Summit in Mexico, which convened politicians to share regional and world views on creating legislation to protect the environment and create awareness on climate change. She has been collaborating on lectures with Columbia University School of Social Work “UN Processes and Politics of Sustainable Development” Columbia University Club and United Nations Association NY Chapter. She participated in the “Fifth Language Congress” sponsored by Spain’s Royal Language Academy publishing a paper on Intercultural Bilingual Education as a tool in development of the indigenous groups in Latin America. Her father Carlos Roberto Flores was President of Honduras (1998-2002). Her joy in her work comes from her values, and convictions, all of which she has passed on to her children. They represent her inspiration, and have been at her side since the beginning of her career.

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Mr. Patrick Sciarratta, Executive Director of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation. Mr. Sciarratta has served as the Executive Director of FAF in Greenwich, CT since 1993. He has spoken at conferences and universities throughout the world on topics related to the role of the arts and cultural exchange as a driver for development and global peace building. In addition to his work with FAF at the United Nations, Mr. Sciarratta is an **Adviser to the Permanent Mission of São Tomé and Príncipe**, through December 2016. Since 2003, he co-created and directs the **Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations®**. He edits the *NGO Reporter*, disseminated to 5,000+ U.N.-affiliated NGOs worldwide, and was re-appointed Treasurer, a second time, for the UN DPI 65th Annual Conference at UNHQ. In January 2012, Patrick co-sponsored the *first-ever* TEDx conference at the U.N. In June 2012, he produced the UN-Inspired Rhythms of One World Choral Festival in NYC. In 2014, the international choir festival took place at UNHQ Geneva, Switzerland in support of the Kofi Annan

Foundation. At the United Nations and UNESCO, his FAF has consultative status. He co-created and directs the premiere, idea leadership program for youth on the annual calendar at U.N. Headquarters in New York since 2003, called the Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations (YA). The YA has focused youth leaders on cultural tourism as a tool for development, peace through tourism and eco-tourist concepts at each of its bi-annual events. He is co-editor of the *NGO Reporter*, disseminated by the U.N. to nearly 3000 NGOs worldwide. He has regularly served on the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee; for the past two DPI/NGO Conferences, he has held the position of Conference Treasurer. He also sits on the board of CoNGO. Mr. Sciarratta has worked with governments and members of the travel and culture industries to create cultural tourism products that contribute to locally-managed, sustainable development. Mr. Sciarratta has led the foundation by focusing on the need for cultural exchange to create deep and lasting global relationships. Selected by former President Clinton, Mr. Sciarratta served as his Presidential Delegate to the first-ever White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in 1995. Between 2010 and 2014, he has been invited to address events in China, several times, as well as in Jordan, Morocco, Albania, throughout the USA, and elsewhere throughout the world. His first TedTalk will take place in Ontario, Canada in 2015.



Ms. Ornesha Reagan, Special Consultant for the United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Ms. Reagan served in the capacity of Communications Coordinator Assistant for the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum. Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Art from the City University of New York, Brooklyn College, and a Master's degree from New York University's Center for Global Affairs. While at NYU her academic area of expertise was international relations with a strong focus on development. She continues to be actively engaged in the field of international relations through her involvement in the NGO, Social Tap Inc., working specifically on the asset mapping project, The Haiti Initiative and now serving as at-large Board Member for the Council for American Students in International Negotiations. **Ms. Reagan is also an Independent Development Researcher on Eco-Tourism** whose work focuses on a method for the tourism industry to identify

sustainable and responsible ways to integrate a culture's living heritage into *anthro* and *eco-tourism* industry development and encourages socially responsible use of intangible cultural assets to reach necessary economic development goals. Her research also aims to provide a model of implementation with an opportunity to connect with our global neighbors and for different populations that apply the model to share successes and failures that will help improve the future of the industry. Her published work includes, "Resort Rastas and Hotel Hula," – a comparative research project on the commercialization of the indigenous Jamaican and Hawaiian cultures by the global tourism industry – which was also presented at the UNESCO and ICOMOS International Conference, Visiting Pasts, Developing Futures –Tourism and the Shifting Values of Cultural Heritage in Taipei in April, 2013. This project was published by the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham.



Mr. Richard Jordan, Representative of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust at the United Nations. The Royal Academy of Science International is an ECOSOC-accredited and DPI-associated NGO based in the United States. Among his many activities at the United Nations, he recently co-facilitated the content for the Conference Outcome Document of the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference held at United Nations Headquarters, in New York during August 2014. In addition to all of his work at the United Nations, Mr. Jordan is working closely with Prof. Dave Randle at the Patel College of Global Sustainability and the University of South Florida, along with others in academia, the eco-tourism community, and members of the private sector, on bringing tourism into an important and strong position within the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. A highlight of Mr. Jordan's career was his election as Rapporteur of the Lanzarote Conference on World Eco-Tourism in the Canary Islands. Due to the success of the workshop that he facilitated with the Patel College of

Global Sustainability during the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, and his support for securing the inclusion of tourism in the NGO Conference Outcome Document, Mr. Jordan received permission from the Board of Directors of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) in Geneva to go forward with leading the formation of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Tourism and Sports.