



NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Supporting the United Nations & Communities Globally

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>

"The Critical Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Business & Media"



H.E. Ms. Penelope Beckles, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations. Ambassador Beckles is an Attorney-at-Law since 1988, having graduated from the University of the West Indies, Barbados with honours and later from the Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador Beckles served as a Local Government Councillor, later entered the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as an Opposition Senator in 1995, and later as a Member of Parliament in 1999. She served as the Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate from 2010 to 2013, was the first female Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of her country and as Chairman of the Joint Select Committees of Parliament, had responsibility for inquiring into Government Ministries and Municipalities, Corporations, Statutory Authorities and Enterprises and Service Commissions. Ambassador Beckles has held a number of ministerial portfolios including Social Development, Public Utilities, Environment, Tourism and Culture. She has a special interest in issues relating to women, youth, children, health, environment, sports and the NGO movement. As a founder of her own NGO,

the Arima Foundation for the Advancement of Women and Children, she has also served as President of the Rape Crisis Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, the UNICEF Board and the Commonwealth Institute for Women in Leadership. Born on 12 September 1966, she is married with one adopted daughter and four stepchildren. On 22 September 2016, she presented her credentials to then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, as Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations.



Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development- New York Office in the Office of the Secretary General. Dr. Carpentier is a Canadian citizen and prior to 2014, she was actively involved in the successful negotiations of the SDGs for the Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. During her tenure with DESA, she served as the Major Groups coordinator to enhance non-state actors engagement with the UN. She facilitated the participation of more than 10,000 non-state actors – a record - in the UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable development. She was also the DESA focal point for sustainable consumption and production, food security and sustainable agriculture. Prior to her UN career, she served as Head of the Trade and Environment Program of the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation from 2000 to 2007, as policy analyst for the Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture from 1998-2000, and as post doc for IFPRI in the Brazilian Amazon from 1996-98. She is a 2006 Yale World Fellow and has consulted to UNDP, World Bank, OCDE, and USDA. Dr. Carpentier regularly publishes journal articles, book chapters, and Secretary General Reports on the intricate relationships between sustainable development policies, trade

and agriculture. She has co-authored a book on Ethical Investing (2008 in French).



Ms. Aline Rutily, CEO and Founder of A Bridge and Founder of ATRIA. Ms. Rutily founded her own consulting company, A Bridge, in 2009, an international strategic advisory company based in Paris focusing on innovative companies, operating mostly in high growth countries with references on four continents, in different sectors: construction, fintech, video streaming, aeronautics. A Bridge focuses mostly on helping entrepreneurs looking for international expansion. A Bridge launched a new branch in 2016 called ATRIA, a global inspiration and impact hub for CEOs and Game Changers from all over the world. In only two years of existence, ATRIA has facilitated dozens of successful collaborations between entrepreneurs all over the world. Ms. Rutily started her early career in KPMG, PwC and ImmoStreet.com the leading French real estate portal then. Then she joined TF1, the leading Commercial TV group in Europe. By then TF1 had also the largest audience in France among Internet portals (Entertainment, News, Video on Demand, etc.). She was there a project Director for new networks like Internet, IPTV, video on demand. She joined BSCconseil as Senior Consultant in 2004 then became deputy CEO in 2006. BSCconseil is a boutique strategy and strategic communication advisory firm, operating for CEOs / CSOs

and CMOs of leading large corporations to help the top management in the digital transition, with a focus on media companies. She is a graduate Alumna of ESSEC (France/Singapore) and Harvard Business School (USA). She is a regular lecturer at ESSEC (Global MBA). References include Vivendi, Lagardere, Korea Telecom (now KT).



Ms. Susanne Bohnet, CEO of Serafini Pictures. Ms. Bohnet's company Serafini Releasing is a female helmed company geared towards underserved audiences such as African American, Latino, Asian, LGBT and Women. She spent the last two years putting a transparent distribution and production system in place by recruiting some of the most highly prolific people within the distribution/marketing entertainment space. All of Serafini's commercial and more art-house driven films are telling their stories from a multicultural viewpoint. Ms. Bohnet was previously heading the U.S. Office of Equity Pictures (Equity Pictures has been the second largest film fund in Germany), where she initiated strategic partnerships with U.S. Producers, negotiated deals with financiers and talent, oversaw production and handled the day to day operations on behalf of the company. During her time with Equity Pictures, the company's annual investments grew from USD \$30 million in 2002 to USD \$155 million in 2004. Ms. Bohnet worked with Equity Pictures on films with budgets between USD \$2 million and USD \$55 million. Prior to managing funds with Equity Pictures, Ms. Bohnet was S.V.P. of Taunus Film in Germany, a subsidiary of Cinemedia KG, for whom she created a presence in the US. Cinemedia is a German company, which was very active in acquiring film

rights for the German market as well as investing equity capital into major U.S. Films. *What Women Want* (starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt) became the company's most successful Hollywood endeavor generating over \$300 million of box office and ancillary revenue. Ms. Bohnet has recently been the Producer/Executive Producer on "16 Bars" a Rap Musical; "Dead Layer"; "A Fistful of Quarters" A Biopic about Nolan Bushnell. Past productions include: "New York I Love You" starring Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Bradley Cooper, Ethan Hawke; "Flashbacks of a Fool" starring Daniel Craig.



Ms. Andrea Holmes Thompkins, President and CEO of ACEMedia Corp. Ms. Holmes Thompkins founded ACE Media Corp: “Andrea’s Communication’s Empire” in 2003, it is a broadcast media sales, marketing and entertainment rep firm, is a certified, Minority Owned Business Enterprise, specializes in branded content promotions & produces interstitials for television, program and movies. She is a 33 year Media Sales & Marketing veteran, Andrea, is responsible for some of the most lucrative advertising sponsorships and campaigns. Combining her interests in fashion, music and sports, concepts have been executed in the highest rated programs in television history, including the Super Bowl, the World Series, the NBA, the NHL, American Idol, Emmy Awards, etc. Her roster of "A" list clients have included the top advertisers in all media, including; American Express, AOL, Burger King, BMW, Chase, Coca Cola, Chrysler, Ford, Kraft, Lincoln Mercury, Mastercard, McDonalds, Mercedes, Nike, Pepsi, P&G, Toys R US, Toyota, Twentieth Century Fox, Visa, to name a few. Her travels have taken her all over the world, six of seven continents, including A 2015 People to People excursion in Cuba, 2013 Nelson Mandela Memorial Service & Funeral in South Africa, the Olympics, World Cup South Africa, the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony for President Barack Obama in Oslo, Norway 2010, The ADMA (Association for Data-driven Marketing & Advertising conference in Australia, production in Mumbai & others. Properties represented by ACE have included, NBCUniversal networks, BRAVO, OXYGEN, SYFY, USA, E ! MSNBC and NBC. Also, Debmarm-Mercury and THE WENDY WILLIAMS show, marketing integrations. THE Shadow League, The SOURCE, Turner Entertainment Networks, TBS, TNT and truTV, TYLER PERRY's For Better or Worse, HOUSE of PAYNE and MEET THE BROWNS on TBS. NBA on TNT. Was an associate producer of the Urban World Film Festival's 2011, Audience Choice Award Winning independent film “LIFE LOVE SOUL” starring Tami Roman and Chad Coleman & associate producer of “BLACKOUT,” starring Jeffrey Wright, Zoe Saldana & Michael B. Jordan, another award winning film, which premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival & honored in 2017 for its 10 year anniversary. A native of Paterson, NJ, she holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Communications from Howard University. Holmes Thompkins, is a member of Community Baptist Church of Englewood, NJ and currently resides in Bergen County NJ with her husband of 30 years, also a Howard University graduate. They are the proud of two sons who are amazing young men. She’s a mother, a wife, a giver, a sharer, an ACEpreneur enjoying life.



Ms. Dena Mekawi, is the CEO of Style & Resilience PR, the International Affairs Director for the Arab Fashion Council and a UN Representative for Women's National Book Association. Style & Resilient PR is a boutique Public Relations & consulting agency that partners with brands, high-profile individuals, corporations, non-profits, and businesses, helping them achieve their strategic messaging goals, while also creating space for inclusive representation through mainstream media, highlighting stories of global resilience and pop culture’s role in social good. Ms. Mekawi holds a Masters Degree in digital publishing from Pace University, where she was working at Oprah Magazine. She realized her passion for media and storytelling can be used to make an impact, globally, shifting how we consume media by inclusive representation. Ms. Mekawi used her experiences of growing up facing discrimination, and experiencing self-esteem issues as a tool to empower this generation of women and minorities. From Miss Arab USA 2013, to Oprah Magazine, Ms. Mekawi used her experience of self-discovery as an Arab American to work collectively, creating space for culture diversity. Ms. Mekawi has been working closely with media and those influencing culture, to create more inclusiveness within corporations and private sector, bringing

the arts to the United Nations. From co-organizing one of the first Sustainable Fashion shows at the United Nations, to partnering with The Global Goals World Cup, using sports to play for one of the Global goals, creating private sector partnerships, Ms. Mekawi understands how to leverage voices for social good, understanding how to integrate cultural conversations and develop it into business imperatives. As a thought leader, Ms. Mekawi strategizes to assemble social innovators, change makers, and diverse influencers to achieve evident change. She used her experiences of growing up facing discrimination, and self-esteem issues as first generation Muslim American, as a tool to empower this generation of youth. www.styleandresilience.com



Mr. Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC. Honorary Adviser of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. Mr. Reshad is a versatile and tactical entrepreneur with over 20 years of international venture experience. He brings a proven track record of leadership, international project management, trade financing, global sales and marketing, international joint venture, cross-cultural communication and venture capital experience to each engagement. Mr. Reshad began his career as a small business consultant, specializing in international sourcing, production and import/export operations focusing in the textile and fashion industries. His other projects concentrated in emerging markets, focusing on infrastructure and real estate development. Currently, Mr. Reshad as the Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC (GAP) assists companies identify and monetize global business opportunities. The company specializes in Global Business Development, Project Acquisition and Management, Infrastructure/PPP, Government Relations, Impact Investing, and Strategic and Capital Raise Consulting. GAP plans to invest in Small Island Developing States in several sectors such as, but not limited to Sustainable infrastructure, Climate Change Industry and Innovation, Renewable Energy and Agriculture. GAP

is partnering with stakeholders to invest in advancing technology to clean ocean plastics pollution and converting waste into a resource. Prior to GAP, Mr. Reshad Co-founded and Managed Sybaris Consulting Group LLC (Sybaris), which strategized with clients to identify opportunities for investment in post-conflict emerging markets and frontier markets. Sybaris provides full-cycle advisory services ranging from business development planning for project structure, leading negotiations with funding sources and designing a sustainable and secure path for infrastructure projects. He also serves on the boards of numerous professional and charitable organizations, while developing partnerships to support the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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