



NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Supporting the United Nations & Communities Globally

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

Women Entrepreneurs Lead on the SDGs

Thursday, March 1, 2018 from 2-4PM; Governor's Room, 2nd Floor, UN Plaza Hotel



H.E. Mr. Odo Tevi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations. In May 2014, Ambassador Tevi became Vanuatu's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York. Apart from this role, Ambassador Tevi also assumed other international roles at the UN. He is currently the Chairman of UN Disarmament Commission, was the Chairman of the Special Committee on UN Charter and Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and he also was Chairman of the Asia Pacific Group, Vice-President for the UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities and Chairman of the joint Vanuatu and UN Consultative Forum on ICPD and National Sustainable Development Plan. He was extensively involved in the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

(QCPR). From 2013-2014, Ambassador Tevi became an international consultant and did assignments for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. For the latter he investigated whether the four countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) should adopt a common currency. From 2003 to 2013, he was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. During this period, he was also Vanuatu's Alternate Governor to the International Monetary Fund. His major achievement as Governor of the central bank during his 10 year stint was that Vanuatu was able to achieve monetary and financial stability and this was translated into record high economic growth. This was achieved despite the challenges imposed by the 2008 global financial crisis. Before becoming Governor, he was Head of the Macroeconomic Policy Division at the Vanuatu Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. Ambassador Tevi has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Papua New Guinea. He then obtained a Masters of Arts (Development Economics) from the University of Sussex, UK. He has a graduate diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also an Advanced Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from New York University. He did his executive training at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and also at Columbia University Business School. Ambassador Tevi and his wife Sharon have three young children and are residing in New York. He is an avid reader and loves music.



Ms. Christine Dimmick is the Founder and CEO of The Good Home Company, Inc. and the Author of Detox Your Home (Rowman and Littlefield 2018). Massive weather storms don't just bring destruction to buildings and homes, but also leave chemical disasters in their wake. Ms. Dimmick, will discuss how our waters and lands are already compromised post Harvey, Irma and Maria and why proper clean-up is imperative to all of our health – not just the victims. She pioneered the move to combine natural ingredients and true to life scents in cleaning products over 20 years ago. She and Good Home products have been featured in O Magazine, Instyle, Dr. Oz and House Beautiful, along with appearances on the Today Show. She is a public speaker promoting health and wellness at Canyon Ranch, Lenox, Mass. and other wellness facilities. Ms. Dimmick will explain how we must bridge partnerships with the private sector to rebuild communities that

not only withstand natural disasters, but are free of toxins and pollutants for the wellness of us all.



Ms. Pooja Bavishi is the Founder and CEO of Malai, an ice cream company with flavors inspired by aromatic spices and global ingredients, based in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Bavishi's interest in cooking and baking started when she was a child in North Carolina, watching the early versions of cooking shows on television, and then trying to recreate the recipes in the kitchen herself. Though she pursued other interests in fair and affordable housing through the non-profit sector, she continued to follow her dessert-making hobby by regularly blogging, and throwing parties for her friends and family as an excuse to experiment with new recipes. She became particularly inspired by the blank palate of an ice cream base, when she discovered that the same spices of her parents' Indian cooking – ginger, rose petals, saffron, and cardamom - could be used to robustly flavor ice creams in a way that she never tasted before. After graduating with her MBA

from NYU's Stern School of Business, she decided to take the leap to grow her hobby into a business and bring these unique flavors to new audiences. In 2015, Ms. Bavishi launched Malai, a small-batch artisanal ice cream company. She continues to craft all of Malai's ice cream recipes and distributes through retail and wholesale channels, including several Whole Foods' in NYC and surrounding areas. She holds a B.A. in Public Policy from UNC-Chapel Hill, an M.S. in Urban Planning from the London School of Economics, and an M.B.A. from NYU's Stern School of Business.



Ms. Jen Forman is the Founder and CEO of Charlotte's Closet. Ms. Forman spent her professional career as a media director at a mid-size PR firm where she was instrumental in securing national and local media placements on behalf of her lifestyle clients. Seeing a void in shopping options for her own daughter, she took her expertise to launch Charlotte's Closet, where she booked herself to talk teen fashion trends and ways to save during prom season on both national and local morning shows to introduce brand and rental concept. Charlotte's Closet has been featured on a number of media outlets including *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *Good Day New York*, *WNBC-NY*, *Great Day Houston* and *Twin Cities Live*. Charlotte's Closet is disrupting online shopping for Gen Z by providing access to borrow designer dresses for all events at up to 75% off retail. Charlotte's Closet is first to market in the teen rental space and offers its young clients exclusive

shopping experiences including a home try on service. The brand currently ships on trend fashions to teens in 48 states. Rent it. Rock it. Return it. www.charlottes-closet.com *Photo is of Jen Forman and her daughter Charlotte who is the inspiration behind Charlotte's Closet.



Ms. Kim McDonnell is the Founder of Thankful. Thankful, a high growth, high profit impact company that engages consumers to address global challenges, through the creation, ownership and management of a powerful and compelling I.P protected global brand. Thankful also runs large awareness campaigns to raise awareness for global issues to engage multiple audiences, delivering sustainable and scale-able revenue and impact. Prior to founding Thankful, Ms. McDonnell worked for over 25 years working in the Australian advertising and marketing industry! Before starting her own business she worked for a number of International agencies including including Leo Burnett! She Co-Founded her own agency which enjoyed 10 years of success, working on international award winning campaigns and included in the BRW Fast 100 – fastest growing Australian companies. In 2014 her agency became part of the Publicis network. She has

been nominated for the Australian Business Woman of the Year and is a regular public speaker and mentor.



Ms. Manal Kahi is the Co-Founder and CEO of Eat Offbeat, a social enterprise that delivers authentic ethnic meals made by refugees who are now chefs in New York City. Ms. Kahi came to the United States from Lebanon three years ago to pursue a Master's Degree at Columbia University in International Environmental Affairs. She has a passion for traveling, social impact and great food, but not necessarily in that order. However, the Hummus she found on supermarket shelves in NYC led her on a different journey. She made her own hummus from a family recipe, her friends loved it, and she considered starting a business. At the same time, millions of Syrian refugees were fleeing their country, making up a quarter of Lebanon's population by October 2013. She co-founded Eat Offbeat to help New Yorkers discover authentic off-the-beaten-path cuisines from around the world all the while providing recently resettled refugees who are

passionate about cooking with a job and a place to thrive. The for-profit caterer specializes in authentic cuisine cooked by recently arrived refugee chefs for a growing list of corporate and non-profit clients in New York City. The small business currently employs a dozen of chefs, and all of them are women. They cater to corporations, universities and non-governmental organizations with their sights set on growth. They want to bring their food to like-minded companies that share their passion for social good. Eat Offbeat has been featured in numerous Media and News outlets including The Guardian, Forbes, the Huffington Post, Newsweek, Fast Company, ABC-TV and others.



Ms. Dena Mekawi, is the CEO of Style & Resilience PR, 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 is also a UN Youth Representative for Women's National Book Association, she 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. www.styleandresilience.com