



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

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## Woman & Children, Health & Resources: How will the SDGs Leave No One Behind?



**H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations in New York.** Prior to this, he served as Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in The Gambia. He has also held the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Gambia. As Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Dr. Tangara has represented The Gambia on the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and UN Women. He has served as Chairman of the African Group at the United Nations, during which he presided over the memorial meeting for the late Nelson Mandela. He was also the Chairman of the University of The Gambia Governing Council, President of Alliance Franco-Gambienne and Honorary Ambassador of the Brabant Wallon (Belgium). He worked as the former coordinator of

the National Authorising Office Support Unit (NAOSU) for European Union funded programmes and projects in The Gambia and has been a consultant for the United Nations Fund for Population Affairs (UNFPA) and other international organisations. Dr. Tangara has served as the Government of The Gambia's Science, Technology and Innovation focal person and also served as Governor of the African Capacity Building Foundation. Dr. Tangara holds a doctorate degree (PhD.) from Université de Limoges, France. His research on the myths and secrets of oral historians of the Mandinka received *Mention Très Honorable avec Félicitations à l'unanimité du jury*<sup>1</sup> from Université de Limoges. He is a trained demographer. He has published several articles and was the Editor-in-Chief of the French magazine, *La Lune*. As a true Pan Africanist, Dr. Tangara was made a member of the steering committee of the World Festival of Black Arts held in Dakar in 2009. He has written widely on the Semiology of Cultural Interaction, Literature and Conflict Resolution, and African Writers and their Cultural Heritage. Being a multi linguist (English, French, Spanish, Mandinka, Wolof, Bambara, Dioula, Krio etc.) has enabled him to serve as an international examiner, interpreter, lecturer and journalist on several international platforms.



**Dr. Christine Durbak, Advisor to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, Founder and Chair of World Information Transfer and a Senior Advisor at DeSilva & Phillips, LLC.** Dr. Durbak is a psychologist skilled in negotiations and the interpersonal aspects of business transactions. Her counsel, drawing on more than 25 years of experience in counseling psychology, is an important facilitator of merger and acquisition negotiations and corporate cultural integrations. Dr. Durbak is president of Executive Stress Management, Inc., which has been serving publishing industry clients during the last 20 years. She is acting president of the World Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, a fellow of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, and a member of the American Psychological Association and the World Federation of Mental Health. Dr. Durbak earned her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Fordham University, her M.A. from Seton Hall University and her B.S. from

New York University. She received her Psychoanalytic Certification from the Center for Modern Psychoanalysis.



**Ms. Nana Taona Kuo, Senior Health Adviser & Senior Manager, Every Woman Every Child Team in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, United Nations, NY.** Ms. Kuo is a development economist and public policy specialist by training, with over 15 years' experience in global health, rural development, HIV and public health, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. The *Every Woman Every Child* movement, led by the UN Secretary-General, aims to intensify national and international commitment and action by governments, the United Nations, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to ensure that women, children and adolescents are at the heart of development. In 2015, Ms. Kuo lead a global process to update the *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, with inputs from over 7,000 organizations and individuals. The *Every Woman Every Child* movement galvanizes ambitious action

and coordinated efforts across sectors, and date has mobilized over 60 country and 150 multi-stakeholder commitments totaling over US\$27 billion to deliver on the promises of a sustainable future for all by 2030. Prior to joining the UN Secretary-General's Office, she was the UNAIDS Country Coordinator a.i in China and spent over five years working in China with UNAIDS. She coordinated the China UN system support to the 4th International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Cooperation, the first Roundtable to be held in Africa in Botswana, May 2013. She also provided inputs to the first Ministerial Forum of China-Africa Health Development under the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in August 2013, which recognized the role of international cooperation partners.

<sup>1</sup> The highest distinction that a French University can offer

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**Mr. Christian Courtis is a Human Rights Officer with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights based in New York Office.** Mr. Courtis is a member of the Human Rights and Sustainable Development Section, working on sustainable development issues, economic and social rights and human rights mainstreaming. Born in Argentina, he is a former law professor at the University of Buenos Aires Law School (Argentina) and invited professor at ITAM Law School (Mexico). He has been visiting professor and researcher at different universities in Europe, Latin America and the United States. He has served as a consultant for the World/Panamerican Health Organization, UNESCO, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights. He was previously the coordinator of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Project of the International

Commission of Jurists (Geneva). He has published numerous articles on human rights, constitutional law, legal theory and legal sociology, and the following books: *La aplicación de los tratados de derechos humanos por los tribunales locales* (del Puerto, Buenos Aires, 1997); *Desde otra mirada. Textos de teoría crítica del derecho* (EUDEBA, Buenos Aires, 2001); *Los derechos sociales como derechos exigibles* (Trotta, Madrid, 2002, with Victor Abramovich); *Derechos sociales: instrucciones de uso* (Fontamara, Mexico, 2003); *Protección internacional de derechos humanos. Nuevos desafíos* (Porrúa, Mexico, 2005); *Los derechos sociales en el debate democrático* (Fundación Sindical de Estudios-Bomarzo, Madrid, 2006, with Víctor Abramovich); *El umbral de la ciudadanía. El significado de los derechos sociales en el Estado social constitucional* (del Puerto, Buenos Aires, 2006, with Victor Abramovich); *Observar la ley. Ensayos de metodología de la investigación jurídica* (Trotta, Madrid); *Ni un paso atrás. La prohibición de regresividad en materia de derechos sociales* (del Puerto, Buenos Aires, 2006); *La aplicación de los tratados sobre derechos humanos en el ámbito local. La experiencia de una década* (del Puerto, Buenos Aires, 2007); *Derechos sociales, ambientales y relaciones entre particulares. Nuevos horizontes* (Deusto, Bilbao, 2007); *Courts and the Legal Enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Comparative experiences of justiciability* (International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, 2008); *El mundo prometido. Escritos sobre derechos sociales y derechos humanos* (Fontamara, Mexico, 2009); *Comentario del Protocolo Facultativo del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales* (Comisión International Commission of Jurists/Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Ginebra, 2009); *La protección judicial de los derechos sociales* (Ecuadorian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Quito, 2009) and *Ecos cercanos. Estudios sobre derechos humanos y justicia* (Uniandes-Siglo del Hombre, Bogota, 2010).



**Dr. Taraneh Shirazian is a Practicing Gynecologic Surgeon and Assistant Professor at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City and President and Medical Director of Saving Mothers.**

Dr. Shirazian also directs global women's health programs at the Global Institute of Public Health, NYU Langone. Previously, Dr. Shirazian was the Director of Global Women's Health in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, and practiced as a gynecologic surgeon there. She was also an Assistant Professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and runs a preparatory global health course to educate the school's OB/GYN residents prior to undertaking electives abroad. Recognized for her thought leadership in global women's health, she is responsible for numerous firsts in this area including development of one of the first global women's health fellowships in the US, and editing the first global women's health handbook for medical providers:

"Around the Globe for Women's Health: A Practical Guide for the Healthcare Provider," published by Springer. Dr. Shirazian has held numerous leadership positions in her field including the National JFCAC chair for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and served on the USAID task force Survive and Thrive, dedicated to reducing global maternal mortality. Her research has been published in the American Journal of Perinatology, Contemporary OB/Gyn, ACOG Today, and the Journal of Women's Health Care. Dr. Shirazian received her M.D. degree through the accelerated program at Brown Medical School, and completed her post-graduate residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Sinai. This philosophy governs her work for women both locally and globally. As a recognized leader in women's health, Dr. Shirazian is frequently called on by the national media to appear as a women's health expert. She has appeared on CBS This Morning, The Today Show and Good Morning America, and has been quoted in major international publications including Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal. A comprehensive collection of these appearances can be found at <http://www.wwcofny.com/media.html>. Dr. Shirazian is the President and Medical Director of Saving Mothers (<http://www.savingmothers.org>), a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating the senseless number of preventable maternal deaths and birth-related complications in the developing world. As medical director, she has developed programming for women in underserved countries including the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Liberia, and has published on the outreach work performed there including the education of skilled birth attendants, community health workers and first line providers in an effort to effect change in maternal mortality worldwide.

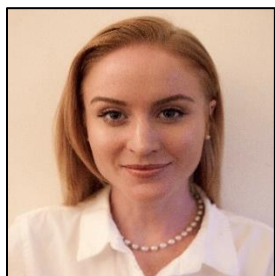
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**Ms. Satvika Chalasani, PhD a Technical Specialist for Adolescents and Youth, Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, Technical Division at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at UN headquarters in New York.** At UNFPA, Ms. Chalasani focuses on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth. She coordinates UNFPA's work on evidence-based programmes and policies for adolescent girls at risk of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. Previously she worked at the Population Council conducting research on adolescents. She is trained as a demographer, economist, and sociologist. Ms. Chalasani is a national of India.



**Dr. Thandeka Mazibuko is a Medical Doctor, Senior Medical Officer in Radiation Oncology, at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, Durban, South Africa. Founder of Dr Thandeka Mazibuko Foundation called Sinomusa Nothando Community Development** (Zulu meaning we have love, care and generosity), founded in 2004 aiming at raising cancer awareness, community development, women empowerment and education of women in higher education level. She is an advocate for early cancer education, screening and treatment to save lives of rural women with academic empowerment being key. Dr. Mazibuko was an Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Namibia: Hon Petrina Hainguri 2013-2014. She graduated from the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine. Awards and Nominations: Nominee of South African of the year 2015, made it to top 7 in a country with 55million people, finalist of the Standard Bank Rising Star of Africa 2014, Regional Business Women of the year 2013. Oprah Heroine 2017. She is from Durban South Africa, born in the village of kwaNyuswa, Bothas Hill and mother of a son.



**Ms. Jessica Williamson, Director for North America of World Information Transfer.** Ms. Williamson is an advocate for women's rights and proven leader in the Green movement. The World Information Transfer (WIT is an NGO in General Consultative Status, with the United Nations where she advocates for women's health and a livable planet. She also writes and speaks to policy makers and corporate leaders on issues such as 'Women's Rights: Synonymous with Global Stability' and 'The Rainbow Warrior and New Zealand's Nuclear Free Policy'. Most recently, she penned an article for Vice Impact on why we need gender equality to fight climate change. Prior to her work with WIT, Williamson hosted a critically acclaimed, multi-million-viewed Web series called, Zaproot which focused on environmental issues. With a combination of humor and sarcasm, Ms. Williamson covered acts of civil disobedience and protest, eco-conscious, corporate initiatives, and highlighted steps the average citizen can take to create a more environmentally mindful society. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two year old daughter.

We thank our Co-Sponsors of this meeting: **World Information Transfer, Mediators Beyond Borders International, Huairou Commission, Global Family, MMUN, UNA-USA Council of Organizations & CoNGO.**

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