



NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

*For the United Nations & Communities Globally
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"

www.ngocsd-ny.org

NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2016 from 1-4PM



H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations and President-elect of the 71st United Nations General Assembly. H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson presented his credentials as Permanent Representative to the United Nations on 3 March 2010. He serves concurrently as Fiji's Ambassador to Cuba. Ambassador Thomson has held office as Vice President of the UN General Assembly for the 2011-2012 session and as President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority for the 2011-2012 session. He served in Fiji's capacity as the 2013 Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and as 2014 President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS. He's currently the President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority and President-Elect of the United Nations General Assembly's 71st Session (2016-2017). He was born in Suva, Fiji in 1948, and was educated at Suva Grammar School and Natabua High School, later attending Auckland University (B.A. Political Studies) in New Zealand, and Cambridge University (Post-Graduate Diploma in Development

Studies) in the United Kingdom. Between 1972 and 1987 Ambassador Thomson worked as a civil servant in the Government of Fiji in the fields of rural development and foreign affairs. His government career began as a district officer in the rural regions of Navua, Macuata and Taveuni. In 1978 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Suva, where he worked on political, protocol and overseas development assistance responsibilities, before being seconded to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in 1979. He was posted to Tokyo in 1980, as Chargé d'Affaires, with the responsibility of opening the Fiji Embassy in Japan. He remained in Tokyo thereafter as First Secretary (aid/trade/tourism) until 1984, when he was appointed Fiji Consul-General in Sydney. In 1986 he returned to Fiji to become Permanent Secretary of Information, first under the leadership of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, and then under Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra. In May 1987 he was appointed Permanent Secretary to the Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, a position he held until his resignation from the civil service. Ambassador Thomson has been a board member of the Fiji Visitors Bureau, Fiji TV and the Fiji Broadcasting Commission. From 1988 to 2009 he worked in private enterprise as a company director and investment/management consultant specialising in Pacific Island affairs, with clients ranging from government agencies, to regional organisations, banks, universities and investment corporations. He was a founding director of Tabua Investments Ltd, the developers of Denarau Island Resort, Fiji's leading integrated tourism resort. Ambassador Thomson is a founder member of the executive committees of the Australia-Fiji Business Council and the New Zealand-Fiji Business Council, and in 2007 was made a life member of the latter council. He is a published author, with one of his books, "Kava in the Blood", being the winner of a Montana book award for non-fiction. In 2014, the President of the Republic of Fiji bestowed the national award of Officer of the Order of Fiji on Ambassador Thomson. He has been married to Marijcke Thomson since 18 March 1973. They have a son, a daughter and three grand-daughters.



The Honorable Mr. Vincenzo Amendola, Undersecretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, has held this position since January 2016. Since September 2014 he has been a member of the PD's National Secretariat, in charge of European and Foreign Affairs and relations with the Party of European Socialists. He was born in Naples on 22 December 1973. In March 2013, he was elected to sit in the Chamber of Deputies for the region of Campania. In the Parliament, he was appointed PD Group Leader in the 3rd Commission on Foreign and Community Affairs. He was also member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In June 2013 he was confirmed member of the PD's National Secretariat in the capacity of Coordinator of the Conference of the PD's Regional Secretaries. In October 2009, he won the primaries and became Campania's regional secretary of the Partito Democratico (PD) until February 2014. In 2006 he became a member of the National Secretariat of the Democratici di Sinistra, and moved to Naples that same year to head the Regional Secretariat of the

DS in the Campania Region. In 2001 he was elected Secretary General of IUSY. He was also a member of the Presidium and of the Socialist International's Board of Directors and participated as a delegate in relevant international forums spanning from the Council of Europe to the World Social Forum. In 1998 he was appointed head of the representation of the centre-left youth movement Sinistra Giovanile at the Foreign Ministry and Vice President of IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth).



Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UN Environment Programme, New York Office. On 1 April 2015, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Mr. Harris as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mr. Harris joined UNEP as Director of the New York Office and of the Secretariat of the Environment Management Group (EMG) in September 2013. Prior to joining UNEP, he worked as an Economist in the IMF from 1988 to 2013, gaining extensive policy and programmatic experience in African and Central Asian countries, as well as in the Fiscal Affairs Department on public expenditure policy issues. From July 2002 onward, Mr. Harris served as Advisor and Assistant Director in the IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department, including as Chief of the Development Issues Division. From September 2008 until May 2012, he was also the IMF's Special Representative to the United Nations, and was closely involved in interagency collaboration in the areas of social protection, the

green economy, and fiscal space for social policy. From September 2009 until October 2013, he was the Vice Chair of the High-Level Committee on Programs (HLCP) of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination.



Ms. Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer for UN-Water in New York for Technical Advisory Unit of UN-Water and the Division for Sustainable Development's Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch of UN DESA. Ms. Bernhardt serves as UN-Water's Programme Officer in New York, as part of both the Technical Advisory Unit of UN-Water as well as the Division for Sustainable Development's Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch within UN-DESA at the UN Secretariat. She previously served as a Communications and Programme Implementation Officer at UN-Water's capacity development programme in Bonn, Germany from 2009 – 2014, and in the seven years before that worked in several positions at the University of Bonn / UN University, UN Volunteers, Amnesty International and UNICEF regional headquarters in various roles related to the nexus between development and environmental issues. She is excited to be able to bring all of this experience to bear in an integrated new sustainable development agenda. UN-Water, as the UN's inter-agency coordination

mechanism on freshwater and sanitation, functions as the focal point for United Nations system-wide water-related input and technical advice. This includes input to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation, for the technical formulation of the Goal, targets, indicators and monitoring and reporting framework for water and sanitation-related targets. Ms. Bernhardt holds an MBA from the University of Reading in the UK, a Masters in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, and a BA in International Studies from Northwestern University in her native Chicagoland area.



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Dr. Wolfgang Haupt, MD, Executive Director of Revive Missions. This is an NGO focused on improving the potable water share per refugee in refugee camps and host communities in Jordan. He is currently working on an emergency case with UNICEF to provide water to 65,000 refugees in an international buffer zone between Syria and the North Eastern part of Jordan. Earlier in his career, he enjoyed success finding ways to improve niches in textile supply chains, fashion, and online retail. During medical school, he launched Agilis Health, a mobile diagnostics technology business which developed the first clinically-verified mobile hearing test in the U.S. Dr. Haupt also co-founded Localized Water Solutions (LWS), a water purification technology and services firm. LWS clients include the U.S. military and large energy and utility companies. With LWS, Dr. Haupt led his team to deliver water purification work pro bono for UNHCR in refugee camps in West and Sub-Saharan Africa. During the influx of refugees into Germany resulting from the conflict in Syria, he served as voluntary doctor at

the Austro-German border to provide medical treatment to 1,800 refugee patients (many suffering from cardiovascular, endocrinological, and PTSD conditions).



Mr. David Clatworthy, Environmental Health Technical Advisor at the International Rescue Committee. Mr. Clatworthy is based in New York and he supports IRC's relief programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Cameroon and Yemen. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, he has worked on water and sanitation programs in conflict responses in a variety of environments in Africa, Asia and Europe. He has a Masters degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Johns Hopkins University and a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. With over 20 years of work experience, Mr. Clatworthy's career has been split between the commercial and the non-profit world. Before becoming engaged in humanitarian response, he worked as a professional engineer in the construction industry; since joining the humanitarian sector he is more focused on the interaction of people and engineering; for example he is currently working with Columbia University on developing a toolkit for more effectively incorporating menstrual hygiene management into

humanitarian response.



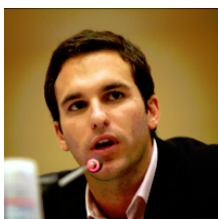
Mr. Lawrence LePere, Principal Civil Engineer, Sherwood Design Engineers. Mr. LePere is a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer and Principal at Sherwood Design Engineers in New York City. His experience as both a developer's representative and consultant in Engineering and Infrastructure Design equips him with a unique perspective on the constraints and opportunities for design and implementation of solutions relating to flood waters, quality of water and systems of water recycling. Mr. LePere understands, and adeptly facilitates how, to find common goals when budget or timelines necessitate a new solution. He's experienced leading multi-million dollar commissions around the world—North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East—developing communities, commercial spaces, infrastructure systems including water supplies, transportation, open space, and various infrastructure platforms in the energy sector. He began his civil engineering practice working with public and private entities including FEMA to define special flood hazard zones and mitigation projects. More

recently, he has been designing and constructing LEED Certified, energy efficient buildings for energy research. These site facilities incorporate renewable energy and have onsite rainwater and waste water re-use to minimize environmental impact. Mr. LePere brings his forward thinking civil engineering approach to Sherwood Design Engineers and complements their technical expertise. As a practice, Sherwood is rooted in sustainable infrastructure design with a focus on water resources, water re-use, energy conservation, climate resilience, and ecosystem engineering. Mr. LePere is also representing the Sherwood Institute whose mission is to advance an urban and ecological approach to infrastructure. The Institute is implementing its vision through collaborations with the UN Habitat III; Columbia University GSAPPP and by hosting annual forums with local authorities, civil society and industry leaders.



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Organizing Partner for the NGO Major Group, Main UN NGO Representative for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Mr. Huffines was appointed as Co-Chair of the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on the theme “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda, which took place at UN HQ (NY), 27-29 August 2014. Mr. Huffines has served as UN DESA NGO Major Group Organizing Partner since 2011 responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in sustainable development activities at the UN. He also serves on the UN Post 2015 Strategic Outreach Planning Group and Beyond 2015/GCAP UN Working Group in New York and represents CIVICUS on the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Working Group on Post-2015. Based in New York since 1996, Mr. Huffines was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011) and previously served as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); senior advisor to the American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal

Court (AMICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations; co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace; convener of the NY NGO Network on the 2005 Millennium Summit; and council member of the US Conference of Religions for Peace. He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community and has taught as an adjunct professor at the Center for Global Affairs, New York University.



Mr. Juan Elias Chebly, Lead Adviser to the UN Environment Programmes' Secretariat of Governing Bodies; Founder and CEO of voipebox.com. Mr Chebly is a PHD Candidate in Sustainable Development at Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela. He holds a BS in management, a minor in International Business, and a Finance MBA degree from St. John's University in Queens NY. Mr. Chebly completed his studies with honors at St. John's in 2009. At age 24, he became St. John's Tobin College of Business youngest Adjunct Professor during Fall 2010. He taught Foundations of Finance and was among the top ranked professors by students. In 2009, he founded Voipebox.com, a telecom startup introducing innovative and pioneering VOIP telephony solutions in South America and the United States.

Our sincere appreciation to Ms. Valeria Biagiotti, First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations for her kind support and to Ms. Sheima Swiss for her kind donation toward the refreshments for today's meeting.