



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"

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NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting: Thursday, October 27th, 2016, 1-4PM



H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on March 2, 2012. He took office as Deputy Secretary-General on 1 July 2012. Mr. Eliasson was from 2007-2008 the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur. Prior to this, Mr. Eliasson served as President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the US from September 2000 until July 2005. In March 2006, Mr. Eliasson was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden and served in this capacity until the elections in the fall of 2006. Mr. Eliasson served from 1994 to 2000 as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, a key position in formulating and implementing Swedish foreign policy. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the UN in New York 1988-92, and also served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Iran/Iraq. Mr. Eliasson was the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and was involved in operations in Africa and the Balkans. He took initiatives on landmines, conflict prevention and humanitarian action. 1980-1986, Mr. Eliasson was part of the UN mediation missions in the war between Iran and Iraq, headed by former Prime Minister Olof Palme. In 1993-94 Mr. Eliasson served as mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He has been a Visiting Professor at Uppsala University and Gothenburg University in Sweden, lecturing on mediation, conflict resolution and UN reform. Mr. Eliasson has had diplomatic postings in New York (twice) Paris, Bonn, Washington (twice) and Harare, where he opened the first Swedish Embassy in 1980. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson also served as Chair of Water Aid/Sweden and a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advocacy Group of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mr. Eliasson graduated from the Swedish Naval Academy in 1962 and earned a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration in 1965.



H.E. Ms. Dessima Williams, Special Adviser, Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Office of the President of the 71st UN General Assembly. Ambassador Williams brings experience as a diplomat and negotiator, a social development advocate, professor and private sector investor. In the 1980s, Ambassador Williams served as Grenada's representative to the Organization of American States, Deputy Governor to the World Bank and Deputy Permanent Representative to the Inter-American Commission of Women. At the Organization of American States, she shepherded resolutions such as the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, Development and Independence and promotion of small island states. Ambassador Williams has taught at secondary, college and university levels and is an advocate for the rights of women and girls, for farmers and for rural development. She founded the Grenada Education and Development Programme, which supports Grenada's students as emerging leaders. She has also owned a business in the tourism sector. In 2009, she returned to diplomacy as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Grenada to the United Nations, serving for over four years, three of those concurrently as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States. In this capacity, she led a 40-island global climate change effort that recorded the high ambition of keeping average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees in the Copenhagen Accord of 2009, which was later included in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Her leadership secured early investment for the island renewable energy organization, SIDS-DOCK. She has participated in numerous sustainable development and political meetings, including Rio+20 and the first and third United Nations Conferences on Small Island Developing States.



H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations. Dr. Otto is the first native Palauan to hold this post. Ambassador Otto is a physician, former Director of Public Health in Palau before retiring from the Ministry of Health in 2003. He served one term as a Senator in the National Congress. Before coming to New York he was Chairman of the Board of the Palau Conservation Society, a member of the Palau National Olympic Committee and was the team physician for the Palau National team at the London Olympics in 2012. Ambassador Otto is the founder of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and was the negotiator representing Palau on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, for which he received the WHO Director General Award in 2003. He championed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Palau, translated the Convention into Palauan and was one of the authors of the first report of implementation of the Convention. His advocacy for human rights includes work on the Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes as the means to ensure the rights of infants to breastmilk, work on Rights of Persons with Disability, Women's rights under CEDAW and rights of the Indigenous People, including protection of traditional and cultural heritage. During the recently concluded UN Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, he led the efforts to include mental health and well-being in the targets under the goal on health and advocated for availability and access to water as a matter of human rights. He also advocated strongly for a stand-alone goal on peaceful and stable society grounded on tolerance, acceptance and understanding as an important component of a firm foundation for sustainable development. With the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), he advocated for a stand-alone goal on Oceans and Climate Change, respectively.



Dr. Judy Buster-Otto, Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations. Dr. Otto covers Third Committee (social development and human rights), Fourth Committee (decolonization), oceans and fisheries issues within the UN. She holds a Ph.D. in public health specializing in prevention of chronic diseases with a focus on environmental determinants of physical activity with special attention to walking and walkable communities, an MPH in health planning and administration, and a BSW (Social Work). Her practice experience encompasses social marketing, chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health, health planning, environmental conservation and human rights with a focus on children. She has worked at multiple levels - community, national, regional and international. Born and educated in West Virginia, she moved to the Pacific Islands in 1976 where she has lived in Hawaii, Saipan, Fiji and Palau. She is married to H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto (Palau) and the mother of three grown children. Outside of work, Dr. Otto is an avid sportsperson focusing on water sports namely competitive va'a (traditional 6-person Polynesian canoe), triathlon, and swimming (instructor, coach, and technical official). She also serves as a member of the Board of Oceania Swimming Association, Vice-President of Kotel A Durreng (a Palau health NGO), and ex-officio member of the Palau Swimming Association of which she was a founder.



Dr. Stan Kutcher ONS, MD, FRCPC, FCAHS, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health and Director, World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Mental Health Policy and Training, Dalhousie University and IWK Health Centre. Dr. Kutcher is an internationally-renowned expert in adolescent mental health and a national and international leader in mental health research, advocacy, training, policy, and services innovation working at the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University. Dr. Kutcher has received numerous awards and honors locally, nationally and internationally for his work. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Internationally he has been involved in mental health work in over 20 countries. One of his recent projects was leading the development of a national child and youth mental health framework for Canada: Evergreen. Currently his focus is on knowledge translation pertaining to improving mental health literacy and mental health care in schools and primary care as well as the development, application and evaluation of electronic youth mental health engagement, self-care and personal health record. He continues his innovative youth mental health development and research across Canada, and globally – including China, South America, Latin America and Africa.



Professor Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D. at Columbia University Teachers College and Main UN NGO Representative, the International Association of Applied Psychology and the World Council of Psychotherapy. Prof. Kuriansky is an international clinical psychologist, is an Honorary Professor at the Beijing Health Sciences Center in China. At the UN, she is advisor to the Deputy Permanent Representative of São Tomé and Príncipe, and past Chair of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited to the UN. In that role, she partnered with Ambassador Caleb Otto of the Palau Mission in the successful inter-governmental campaign to include mental health and wellbeing in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She has also advocated about psychosocial resilience at the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that led to the Sendai Framework. She has extensive experience providing psychosocial support and trainings after disasters, e.g., in Haiti, Japan, China, West Africa during the Ebola epidemic, and most recently in Jordan regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. She has also co-developed a Girls Empowerment Program in Africa and hosted events for US Doctors for Africa and Voices of African Mothers. An award-winning journalist, she has been a television news feature reporter and radio advice host and writes for magazines and newspapers worldwide. Her book topics range from healthy relationships, to "Ecopsychology: the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection" "Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet" and the recently released, "The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola Has Taught Us about Holistic Healing."

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Mr. Isaac Reshad, Vice President of the Board, American Friends of Sarah Herzog Hospital and Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC (GAP). Mr. Reshad is a long-time supporter of the Sarah Herzog Hospital and of the work of its doctors and nurses who conduct training programs worldwide covering a range of cross-regional health issues and concerns. He serves on the boards of numerous professional and charitable organizations, while developing partnerships to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mr. Reshad is the Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC (GAP) which helps companies identify and monetize global business opportunities. GAP integrates the private sector, government agencies, and key stakeholders to secure and manage projects. The company specializes in Global Business Development, Project Acquisition and Management, Infrastructure/PPP, Government Relations and Impact Investing. Prior to GAP, Mr. Reshad Co-Founded and Managed Sybaris Consulting Group, LLC (Sybaris), which

strategizes with clients to identify opportunities for investment in post-conflict emerging markets and frontier markets. Mr. Reshad is a versatile and tactical entrepreneur with over 20 years of international venture experience.



Ms. Sarri Singer, Founder & Director of Strength to Strength. Ms. Singer's non-profit organization focuses on bringing together victims of terrorism around the world and assisting with long term psychological care. She was born in Lakewood, New Jersey and is the daughter of New Jersey State Senator, Robert Singer. Until 9/11, she worked two blocks away from the World Trade Center. Deeply moved by the tragedy, Ms. Singer decided to resign from her position in December 2001 and move to Israel to help victims of terrorism. While there, she volunteered with various organizations working with victims of terror and their families. On June 11, 2003, she was on Bus 14 in Jerusalem when an 18 year old Palestinian terrorist dressed as a religious Jew boarded and blew himself up. 16 people were killed, including all those seated and standing around her, and over 100 people were injured. She was hospitalized and then returned to New Jersey to be with family. Her story became high profile. She appeared on television stations such as CBS, Fox News, CNN and radio interviews. She spoke before Congressmen and Senators in Washington, D.C. and politicians in New York and New Jersey. In September 2003 she returned to work and volunteering in Israel. In June 2004, she returned to the United States. Ms. Singer has addressed audiences throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Israel and continues to share her unique insight into the ongoing struggle for victims of terrorism in Israel and around the world. (www.stosglobal.org)



Mrs. Brita Darany von Regensburg, Founder & President, Friends of Autistic People (FAP). In 1997, Mrs. Darany von Regensburg founded Friends of Autistic People when she discovered through experience of her own daughter with autism, that autism services stop for children after they leave the school system. She gave up her business to spend full time running FAP as its President, a voluntary position with no compensation since 1997. She has worked as a volunteer for Kids in Crisis, for the Greenwich Library/Flinn Gallery, served as Vice President of the German Club of Connecticut, member of Alliance Francaise, the German Chamber of Commerce in NY, the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, CAAC(Connecticut Autism Action Coalition) and ACAA(Agricultural Communities for Adults with Autism). As President of FAP she has put autism on the map in Southern CT, brought to Greenwich as speakers several autism experts including Temple Grandin, and has advocated for legislation to provide services for children and adults both in Washington

and in the State Capitol, Hartford CT. Graduate of the University of Munich, Germany, MA, Literature and Languages. Graduate of the New York School of Interior Design. She taught French at the Riverdale Country School, worked as an editor at Random House, and as foreign rights coordinator at McGraw-Hill, in New York City. She has traveled extensively worldwide, has lived in Munich-Germany, Barcelona- Spain, Dijon-France, New Delhi-India, Tokyo-Japan, New York City, and Greenwich, CT since 1976. After moving to Connecticut, established her own business, Brita Darany Design and operated a successful international home accessories and interiors business.



Dr. Padmini (Mini) Murthy, Associate Professor and Global Health Director at New York Medical College. Dr. Murthy is a physician (a trained obstetrician and gynecologist) and an activist who did her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has practiced medicine and public health for the past 28 years in various countries. She has been working in various arenas of the health care industry. She has a MPH and a MS in Management from New York University. Dr. Murthy serves as the Medical Women's International Association NGO representative the United Nations. She also serves a member of the Executive Council of the NGO CSW Committee of NY at the United Nations. Dr. Murthy is widely published and is the author and editor of Women's Global Health and Human Rights (Jones and Bartlett publisher) which is used as a text book worldwide and she serves as a peer reviewer for several publications. Her poetry book Mini's Musings was published in 2012. She has made over 100 presentations on women's and children's health nationally and internationally

in scientific conferences and in the United Nations and countries where she has been invited. She has been working to promote safe motherhood and other health initiatives focused on women in India, Malawi and Grenada. Dr. Murthy has been the recipient of numerous awards. She was the 1st American woman physician to receive the Jhirad Oration Award (in Seoul, Korea) conferred at an international conference in recognition of her service and work to MWIA. She has also been the recipient of the Soujourner Truth Pin which is given to those women who excel in community service. In June 2015, she was presented Millennium Milestone Maker Award at the 9th Annual Women's Symposium at Sias University, China.



Mr. William Yotive, Model UN Coordinator for World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). Mr. Yotive manages and develops content for WFUNA's Model UN programs including its flagship Model UN conference (WIMUN) and trainings on how to simulate the General Assembly and Security Council more accurately at different educational levels. Prior to working at WFUNA, Mr. Yotive was Project Manager of the United Nations Global Teaching and Learning Project within the Outreach Division of the UN Department of Public Information for more than 14 years. He was responsible for creating educational materials for schools around the world on the United Nations and global issues on its agenda. Prior to working at the UN, Mr. Yotive was a Director of Research at Sesame Workshop which produces educational television programmes for children, such as Sesame Street. He has designed and conducted many studies to evaluate the impact that these programmes have on the cognitive, social and emotional development of children. Mr. Yotive is an

Advisory Council Member of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations and also serves on the International Institute on Peace Education Transnational Advisory Group.



Ms. Hannah Moosa, Programme Director, NGOCSD-NY/MUN4SDGs Action Teams. Ms. Moosa was born and raised in South Africa, she now lives in Toronto, Canada, where she pursued her tertiary education. She has a Bachelors' degree in Economics, Political Science and French Studies, and a Masters in International Relations from the University of Toronto. She has also spent two years doing research work on natural resource management and post-conflict peacebuilding for UNEP. Ms. Moosa is particularly interested in issues of sustainable development, natural resource management, transboundary water cooperation, peace and conflict, and youth education. Her experience with Model UN began as a Grade 11 student in South Africa. Since her first conference fifteen years ago, she has served as a delegate, staff member, organizer, secretariat member and faculty advisor at over thirty MUN Conferences at a high school and university level in South Africa, the U.S., Canada, Switzerland and Azerbaijan. Most notably, in 2009 she served as Secretary General of the first

Global Model UN Conference organised by the UN DPI at the UN Office in Geneva. In 2013, she assisted UNDP Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan in organizing the first Model UN Security Council Simulation in Baku. She is passionate about youth education and advocacy work, and firmly believes in the power of MUN to create dynamic and compassionate young leaders with a great respect and appreciation for diversity, a deep understanding of the complexities of the world, and a commitment to contributing meaningfully to the SDGs.



Mr. Joseph Robertson, Global Strategy Director, at Citizens' Climate Lobby and NGOCSD-NY Climate Action Field Leader Teams Programme, Managing Director. Mr. Robertson is member of the NGOCSD-NY Executive Board. He is the Global Strategy Director for the nonpartisan, nonprofit [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#). He coordinates the building of CCL's citizen engagement groups on 5 continents, leads the [Citizens' Climate Engagement Network](#) and represents CCL in the [Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition](#), UNFCCC negotiations, and other UN processes. Joseph is the author of the 2010 report *Building a Green Economy: On the Economics of Carbon Pricing and the Transition to Clean, Renewable Fuels*. He is the founder and president of the [Geoversiv Foundation](#), sits on the Executive Board of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, and is the lead strategist supporting the high-level climate dialogue series [Accelerating Progress, Advancing Innovation](#). He is a member of the Policy and Strategy Group for the World We Want for the 2030 Action Campaign.



Professor Jan W. Dash is the NGOCSD-NY Lead Adviser on Climate Change and Managing Editor of the Climate Portal website. Prof. Dash is the Editor of the Climate Statement: Summary and Recommendations to Governments of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, delivered to leaders at the Copenhagen climate conference and updated yearly. He is a Matchmaker for the Climate Science Rapid Response Team providing scientific responses to media questions. He is the author of the "one-liner" responses to climate contrarian fallacies. He has worked for years in risk management and wrote a book about it. The 2nd edition will contain a chapter on Climate Risk Management. Prof. Dash is an Adjunct Professor at the Courant Institute NYU and is a research scholar at Fordham University. He has a PhD in physics, was Director de Research at the Centre de Physique Theorize in Marseille France, and has published over 50 scientific papers.