NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY



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NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting: Thursday, September 29th, 2016, 1-4PM



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.



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Maldives to the UN. Mr. Sareer has been the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations since 20 December 2012. Mr. Sareer is also concurrently serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the United States of America having presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency President Barack Obama on 14 January 2013. From December 2009 until his appointment as Ambassador / Chargé d'Affaires to the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations in February 2012, Mr. Sareer served as the High Commissioner of Maldives to the Perpel's Republic of Bangladesh. He was Deputy High Commissioner in London, United Kingdom from June 2008 to May 2009, and served as the Charge d'Affaires, Maldives Mission to the European Union, Brussels from March to June 2008. He was the Counsellor and later the Deputy High Commissioner in Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 2006 to March 2008. As a career foreign service officer, he began his service at the Ministry Foreign Affairs in February 1986 and held various positions including Director General, Foreign Relations Department. Mr. Sareer was Director representing the Maldives at the Secretariat of the South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Kathmandu from June 2000 to May 2003. Mr. Sareer served as the Second Secretary/ Charge d'Affaires at the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations, New York from September 1992 to December 1993. He also served as Third Secretary at the High Commission of Maldives in Colombo, Sri Lanka from April 1988 to February 1989. He was a representative of the Maldives Delegation to the 47th (1992), 48th (1993), 52nd (1997), 63rd (2007), 66th (2011), 67th (2012), 68th (2013), 69th (2014) and 70th (2015) Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York. Since January 2015, the Maldives has assumed Chairmanship of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a coalition of 44 small island and coastal nations from around the world, and Mr. Sareer has been leading the process on behalf of the Government of Maldives. Since January 2016, Mr. Sareer has been serving as Co-Chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States on behalf of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, constituted by the latter under UNGA resolution 70/202. After completing his secondary education in the Maldives, Mr. Sareer has undertaken further studies in Australia, where he attained a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Canberra and a master's degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University. He also attended a Foreign Service Training Programme conducted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia.



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.



Mr. Olav Kjørven, Director, Public Partnerships Division, UNICEF. Mr. Kjørven was appointed Director of UNICEF's Public Partnerships Division in July 2014, and coordinates the organization's public sector resource mobilization and its work with governments as partners in advancing the rights of every child, everywhere. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Kjørven led the work of the United Nations Development Programme in contributing to shaping the Post-2015 development agenda. He was Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP for over six years. In this capacity he was a senior advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the 'Sustainable Energy For All' initiative and led the UN's engagement with the G20 Development Working Group. Mr. Kjørven played a central role in the setting up of the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, and bringing its work to a successful conclusion. Before his appointment as Assistant Secretary-General in 2007, Mr. Kjørven was the head of UNDP's Environment and Energy Group and from 2001 to 2005, Mr. Kjørven was State Secretary for International Development with the Government of Norway. He began his career in development as an Environmental Specialist with the World Bank in 1992. Mr. Kjørven is a national of Norway and holds a Master's

Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.



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).

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Ms. Mariarosa Cutillo, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, United Nations Population Fund. Ms. Cutillo, a national of Italy, has recently undertaken the role of Chief of the Strategic Partnerships Branch, within the Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships of UNFPA. She brings with her more than 20 years of professional experience, working for the private sector. Before joining UNFPA, she was the Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Benetton Group, as well as President and CEO of Benetton's UNHATE Foundation. She has served as director of Valore Sociale per l'Impresa Responsabile (a multi stakeholder corporate social responsibility organization). On issues relating to corporate sustainability, she has served as a legal expert for various Institutions. She has also worked extensively for the international non-governmental organization Mani Tese. She was also a professor in International Law Cases in the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan-Bicocca and senior lecturer at the Catholic University of Law of the Catholic University of Milan in 1995. She has post-graduate specializations in Human Rights and in business administration, with a specific focus on social and environmental sustainability.



Ms. Mahrinah von Schlegel, Executive Director of Embassy2.0. Ms. von Schlegel is a High Tech Entrepreneur with a diverse background in anthropology, finance, sustainable development, strategy, fine arts dance, and alternative energies. Her NGO Embassy2.0 focuses on policy advisement on entrepreneurship and emerging technologies and facilitating global opportunities for high-growth, high-potential entrepreneurs in the ITC sector. She has built digital projects and communities since 2001 and developed nearly \$1B in real estate, predominantly in Southern California. Ms. von Schlegel received her education at the University of Pennsylvania and Wharton School of Business. A Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholar who was named "America's Promising Youth Leader" by Secretary of State Colin Powell. She has had a longstanding commitment toward works with a humanist basis and extensive board involvement. In 2012, she founded Cibola, the first diversity-focused technology incubator in Chicago. It serviced over 30 companies and held over 52 events in the first 6 months of operation with groups ranging from The White House, The Unived States Department of State, Google, Microsoft, Groupon and EchoNest. She is a mentor for Tetuan Valley, TechWadi, LOFT Institute, is an international public speaker on topics surrounding high tech

entrepreneurship and ecosystem development. She is also Partner at 1365, a Strategy Consultancy that specializes in launching companies, products and services into new markets, with principal focuses on international clients entering the U.S. market and domestic companies scaling into new cities. Her clients range from startups to large-scale global entities having built and launched over 40 companies and projects who represent over \$100M in annual revenue.



Ms. Maria Otero, Esq. Founder and President, Women's Venture Fund. Ms. Otero launched the Women's Venture Fund in 1996 with the idea that women could succeed as entrepreneurs when they could access credit and resources. She has assisted in the development of public policy through presentations to foreign delegations visiting the U.S and as a former Commissioner on the New York City Commission on Women's Issues. Ms. Otero has received numerous honors including Bloomberg's Hispanic Entrepreneur Award, and the Financial Women's Association public service award. As an expert in her field, she has served as a judge in various national and regional competitions such as the Forbes Small Business competition, Baruch's entrepreneurship competition, and the NYC Women's Small Business Competition. She just recently judged the 7th Annual New York StartUP! 2016 Business Plan Competition and will be on the panel of judges for the upcoming International Innovators Initiative. She has been featured in various regional and national media such as: NBC News, Fox Business News, WPIX, Bloomberg News, Crain's New York Business, The New York Times, Shape Magazine, the National Association of Female Executive's magazine just to name a few. Ms. Otero has also served as guest columnist for El Dario newspaper. She began her career as an attorney and

received a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.





Ms. Emilie McGlone, is the Director of the New York-based office of Peace Boat US, a non-profit organization working to promote peace, sustainable development and respect for the environment through educational programs organized onboard the Peace Boat, a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. Peace Boat holds Special Consultative Status with the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations and works in partnership with UN delegates, Nobel Peace Laureates and community leaders from around the world to create opportunities for international cooperation focused on conflict resolution, environmental sustainability, indigenous issues, cultural awareness and peace education. Founded in 1983 and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009, Peace Boat has sailed on over 83 global voyages, carrying more than 50,000 people to more than 100 countries. Currently, Peace Boat is launching a new initiative to build an ECO SHIP, which will showcase green technology and design, while inspiring positive change to radically reduce our carbon footprint. For information about Peace Boat, please visit www.peaceboat.org.

Ms. Marie Louise Ocran, Founder & President of More to Life International. Ms. Ocran is a 21 year old native of Ghana currently living in New York. Her organization "More to Life International," works with schools and community groups to help youth overcome low self-esteem, bullying, and all other issues that could hinder their emotional and psychological development. This work aims to also lift and empower youth out of poverty so they can lead full and productive lives such furthering their education, securing employment and building their careers. She has used media in Ghana for raising awareness about the need for programs addressing mental health and wellbeing by appearing on radio, TV and producing videos. She is currently is raising awareness amongst governments and with CEOs in leading industries to support this campaign. She hopes to build community centers to support youth empowerment in communities globally. She was third runner up in the Miss Universe Ghana Pageant in 2015. This year Ms. Ocran was invited to attend the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City.



Ms. Malena Gamboa, Founder and Executive Director of Global Resolutions. Ms. Gamboa is an architects ecosystems that foster action and mass collaboration for social impact. Global Resolutions, an initiative that drives awareness and commitments for sustainability with a focus on supporting the success of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. She kicked off her career in marketing and promotions 15 years ago, starting as a Television program promotions consultant and then quickly moved into writing and leading promotions for the NBC networks, which included lead consulting on the 2004 Olympic's first bilingual cross over campaign. Following a short break to grow her family, she launched her new consultancy firm where she leverages Spiral Dynamics and AQAL strategies in creating inclusive powerful brand ecosystems that dynamically fuel and sustain momentum. Ms. Gamboa is passionate about ushering in a sustainable, kinder world. As such, she is expanding the Global Resolutions ecosystems of programs and media through Global Impact Media Corp, in partnership with the World Everyone Dreams Of Collaborative Foundation. Ms. Gamboa also serves on the board of The Global One Foundation.



Ms. Dena Mekawi, UN Youth Representative, Women's National Book Association. Ms. Mekawi holds a master degree in digital publishing from Pace University. She realized her passion for media and literacy can be used to make an impact, sending positive messages through mainstream media. She used her experiences of growing up facing discrimination, and experiencing self-esteem issues as a tool to empower this generation of youth. She uses her platform to mentor and train youth to become leaders. She aims to drive a shift in the way media and entertainment engage with civil society, and youth. Ms. Mekawi is the CEO of Style & Resilience, which is a PR, & consulting firm that acts as a thought partner companies, brands, leaders & celebrities that seek to shift their messaging towards civil society. Style and Resilience aims to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. She understands how to integrate cultural conversations and develop it into business imperatives. As a thought leader, she strategizes to assemble social innovators, change makers, and diverse influencers to achieve evident change. Ms. Mekawi also recently founded Style and Resilience foundation, which is a community, organization that drives social change through style and empowers youth through art, music, fashion and more. Style and Resilience partners with those who aim to

drive cultural movements for social good, and seek to find the spark and purpose in youth.