



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”

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

NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 1PM-3PM



H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic 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 People’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.



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 Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations, New York. Apart from this role, he 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 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, he 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.



Dr. Judy Buster-Otto, Adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Republic 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. Christine K. Durbak, Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, Founder and Chair of World Information Transfer, President of the K. Kovshevych Foundation. Dr. Durbak has a clinical practice in psychoanalysis, specializing in narcissistic disorders and is the President of Executive Stress Management dealing with issues of executive management and conflict resolutions in companies throughout US, Europe and Asia. Previously she was the CEO of Physicians Weekly, LLC, a company dedicated to the dissemination of up to date medical information to hospitals, physicians. She was also a President of the National and World Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis. In 1987, following the Chernobyl catastrophe, Dr. Durbak began World Information Transfer, Inc. (WIT) a 501(c3), non-for-profit organization in general consultative status with UN/ECOSOC, dedicated to disseminating information on safeguarding human health from the ravaging effects of environmental catastrophes and degradation. Dr. Durbak was a member of the Advisory Board of the National Cancer Institute Chernobyl Study. She is the Editor in Chief of the World Ecology Report, which disseminates information on the issues of health and environment internationally, Chair of WIT's annual international Conference held at the United Nations Secretariat since 1992 on the topic of Health and Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions and supervisor of WIT's Summer UN Internship program. The K. Kovshevych Foundation assisting gifted young students with grants for their university studies.



Ms. Hawa Diallo, Public Information Officer, NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section Department of Public Information. Ms. Diallo is the Public Information Officer in the NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section of the Department of Public Information, where she coordinates UN and NGO partnership activities. She has extensive United Nations experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with a particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1987 in the Department of Public Information and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and as a Partners and Youth Officer.



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.



Ms. Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US, New York Office. Peace Boat is 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.



Mr. Marc Jourdan, UN Programs & Outreach Manager, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development. A qualified lawyer with an LLM in Environmental Law, Mr. Jourdan contributes to inter-governmental meetings and conferences, participates in multi-stakeholder discussions on matter related to climate policy and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continuously seeks to showcase the important role that NGOs like the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development can play in supporting sustainable development across the globe. Prior to joining GFDD in 2013, he worked as a policy advisor on climate change issues for the international nonprofit The Climate Group as well as the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations. Previously, he worked as a corporate lawyer for 4 years in the United Kingdom. Mr. Jourdan has an LLB in Law and French from the University of Surrey and an LLM in Environmental Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.



Mr. Daniel Perell, Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group, Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development, Representative for Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations, New York. Mr. Perell joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He is currently a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Mr. Perell received a JD from the University of Virginia, School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and was admitted to the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Perell has worked with the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, the UN in Aceh, Indonesia and other organizations in the Marshall Islands and Chile.