



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

In Support of the United Nations & Communities Globally

*"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"*

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

## The Recent Mass Destruction of Major Hurricanes: Facing the Devastating Impact of Climate Change

Friday, September 29, 2017 1-4PM in Boss Room of the CCUN



**H.E. Dr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.** Ambassador Webson had a long career with Perkins International, serving as its Director since 2011. Prior to that, he was the organization's Director of Institutional Development and Coordinator of Education Programs for Africa and the Caribbean. Before joining Perkins International in 1992, Ambassador Webson was the Caribbean Regional Representative for Sight Savers International for two years, beginning in 1990. From 1981 to 1986, he was the Executive Director of the Caribbean Council for the Blind. He has also been teaching Leadership and International Management at Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts, since 2006. He has authored books on

empowering persons with disabilities and academic papers on development, education and aspects of disability. Ambassador Webson holds a doctorate in management from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, United States. He earned his Master of Science in management of non-profit organizations and his Bachelor of Science from the New School for Social Research, New York, in the United States.



**H.E. Ms. Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Dominica to the United Nations.** Ambassador Bannis-Roberts presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon 22 August 2016. Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Bannis-Roberts was Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Employment, Trade and Diaspora Affairs from 2010, as well as a justice of the peace. Between 2007 and 2009 she was Minister for Community Development, Culture, Gender Affairs and Information, having previously served as a Minister in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Private Sector Relations between 2005 and 2007 and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education between 2000 and 2005. Between 2000 and 2009 she was a Member of Parliament for Castle Bruce

constituency. A school teacher and bank supervisor prior to entering the public sector, Ambassador Bannis-Roberts has been a member of several civil society organizations, including the Dominica Disaster Relief Committee, which she has chaired since 2015. A graduate of Convent High School in Dominica, she has attended the Executive Education Centre of the Schulich School of Business at York University in Canada. Born on 19 September 1966, she is married and has three children.



**H.E. Ms. Pernelle Beckles, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations.** Ambassador Beckles has been a practicing attorney since 1988, she has held a number of ministerial portfolios in Trinidad and Tobago, including Minister for Public Utilities and the Environment, from 2003 to 2007, and Minister for Culture and Tourism from 2002 to 2003. From 2001 to 2002, she was concurrently Minister for Social Development, Minister for Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and Minister for Health. Having first entered Parliament in 1995 as an Opposition Senator, she served as Leader of Opposition Business in Trinidad and Tobago's Senate from 2010 to 2013 and its first female Deputy Speaker of the Parliament from 2007 to 2010. A past student of St Joseph's

Convent, San Fernando, Ambassador Beckles attended the University of the West Indies, at both the St. Augustine, Trinidad and Cave Hill, Barbados, campuses where she graduated with honours. She then graduated from the Hugh Wooding Law School. As a resident of her local hometown of Arima, Ambassador Beckles is deeply involved in a number of community and national organizations, including the Arima Foundation for the Advancement of Women and Children and the Rape Crisis Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, where she served as President. Ambassador Beckles is also a member of the UNICEF Board in Trinidad, as well as the Commonwealth Institute for Women in Leadership. On 22 August 2016, she presented her credentials to then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon as the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations. Special interests include issue relating to women and children, health, and the environment. Born on 12 September 1961, she is married and has four step-children.

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**Dr. Cassander Titley-O'Neal, Executive Director of Environmental Systems Ltd. and a native British Virgin Islander.** Dr. Titley-O'Neal has always had a passion for the sea from a very early age, and this was heavily influenced by her late father Amos Jerome O'Neal. Her love for the sea and the environment is what led her to pursue degrees related to the environment, become a certified SCUBA diver, and has participated in local sports fishing tournaments. Dr. T-O, as she is affectionately called by persons in the community, completed her BSc. in Marine Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina in Wilmington; a MSc. in Applied Marine Science from the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom; and a PhD. in Marine Biology from the University of New Brunswick in Canada. As a local environmental consultant, Dr. Titley-

O'Neal has been the lead project manager on various environmental studies such as environmental impact assessments, environmental scoping studies, environmental management and monitoring plans and the like. In addition, she has also served as the environmental monitor for development projects on behalf of the Government of the BVI. In November 2016, Dr. Titley-O'Neal teamed up with Dillon Consultants in Canada to complete a national development plan for the BVI as part of the iLand Resilience umbrella to promote climate change which was sponsored by the European Union. Since the destruction of Hurricane Irma on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Dr. Titley-O'Neal has since left her native Virgin Gorda.



**Ms. Angela Alfieri, CEO, Healer and Lead Teacher at A & E.** Ms. Alfieri has seen over 10,000 clients both one-on-one and groups to offer: energy work, massage and yoga therapy, meditation and intuitive lifestyle coaching as a way to connect her clients back to their deepest voice, their intuition. A natural master of her crafts of over 15 years, she expanded her skill set into corporations five years ago to build out customized wellness programs where meditation and yoga serve as catalysts to teach people how to relax, focus and command leadership in one's environment. Her soul feeds off bringing a sense of community in the workplace and she loves speaking engagements both small and large to support more education around the mind and body connection. Her clients include high profile celebrities, CEO's and Executives of mid and

large-size companies and successful entrepreneurs. <http://www.angelaalfieri.com> Ms. Alfieri survived the impact of Hurricanes Irma on St. John and Maria on St. Thomas.



**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, an Honorary Professor at the Beijing Health Sciences Center in China and trustee of the United African Congress. At the UN, she has been an 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 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. She has advocated about psychosocial resilience at

the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun and the Third World Conference on DRR that led to the Sendai Framework. She has extensive experience in the field providing psychosocial support and trainings after natural disasters and other crises, e.g., in Haiti, Japan, China, and the USA, as well as in West Africa during the Ebola epidemic and in Jordan regarding the Syrian refugee crisis, as well as writing about recovery for professional as well as major media outlets. 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 columnist for magazines and newspapers worldwide. Her book topics range from healthy relationships, to "Eco-psychology: the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection" "The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola Has Taught Us about Holistic Healing" and "Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet."



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**Ms. Prentiss Darden, Innovation Generalist and Designer at Sherwood Design Engineers.** Ms. Darden's background is in international relations and landscape architecture with a focus on designing water infrastructure that provides social space and improves surrounding ecologies. As a designer, she works with teams to strategize and implement ecological infrastructure and water reuse with an eye towards optimizing interconnected systems in the built environment, in arid, temperate, and tropical climates. She has facilitated and participated in workshops about resilient and community infrastructure and contributed to the development of the New Urban Agenda through the UN. Sherwood Design Engineers are rooted in sustainable infrastructure design with a focus on water resources, water re-use, energy conservation, climate resilience, and ecosystem engineering.



**Ms. Christine Dimmick, Founder and CEO of The Good Home Company, Inc. and Author of *Detox Your Home*** (Rowman and Littlefield 2018). Massive weather storms don't just bring destruction to buildings and homes, but also leave chemical disasters in their wake. Ms. Dimmick, will discuss how our waters and lands are already compromised post Harvey, Irma and Maria and why proper clean-up is imperative to all of our health – not just the victims. She pioneered the move to combine natural ingredients and true to life scents in cleaning products over 20 years ago. She and Good Home products have been featured in *O Magazine*, *Instyle*, *Dr. Oz* and *House Beautiful*, along with appearances on the *Today Show*. She is a public speaker promoting health and wellness at Canyon Ranch, Lenox, Mass. and other wellness facilities. Ms. Dimmick

will explain how we must bridge partnerships with the private sector to rebuild communities that not only withstand natural disasters, but are free of toxins and pollutants for the wellness of us all.

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