

## NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY & the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations for CSW61, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017



### **Honorable Ms. Chandrani Bandara Jayasingha, Minister for Women and Child Affairs in Sri Lanka.**

A long time parliamentarian representing the district Anuradhapura in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. She has worked tirelessly for the wellbeing of her constituency and to promote issues of gender equality and entrepreneurship among rural women. Under her leadership, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has embarked upon vital projects to strengthen childcare centers within the office premises and she has worked towards making positive policy changes for the betterment of widows, and has established a national secretariat in the former areas of conflict for the economic enhancement and protection of war widows. The Secretariat provides psychosocial counselling, offers protection measures, and support and advice on entrepreneurial and livelihood issues. Ms. Bandara Jayasingha is also working on capacity building measures and implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. One of her

key achievements has been her invaluable efforts in securing a 25 percent quota for women at the local government level. On her initiation, the cabinet has recently approved her proposal to allocate 25 percent of all funding received for rural economic enhancement to women's economic enhancement efforts. The Minister is the chairperson of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus.



### **H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York.**

Dr. Perera is a Graduate of Law of the University of Ceylon (1971). After being admitted as an Advocate of the Supreme Court (1973), he practiced in the field of Civil Law. He then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Assistant Legal Advisor (1976). Thereafter, he was appointed as Additional Legal Advisor and finally Legal Advisor, in which capacity he served until his retirement from public service in 2007. Until 2011, Dr. Perera served a member of the International Law Commission (ILC), having been elected to the Commission in 2007. He also chairs the United Nations Ad-hoc Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, currently negotiating the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. He has also served as a Visiting Lecturer in Public International Law at the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya, Open University of Sri Lanka,

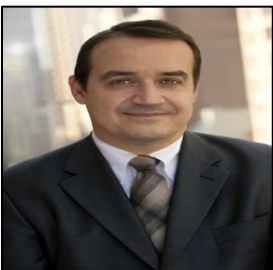
Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. In May 2010 Dr. Perera was appointed as a Commissioner of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC).



### **Mrs. Zeinab W. Hussein, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs of the Republic of Kenya.**

As the Principal Secretary, Mrs. Hussein is charged with the responsibility of: coordinating the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes in the country, overseeing the access and utilization of Affirmative Action Funds – Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), UWEZO, National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF); elimination of Gender Based Violence in all its forms, and; Safeguarding and promoting gender equality as espoused in the Constitution. She is also in charge of: Gender policy management, Special programmes for women empowerment Gender mainstreaming in Ministries/Departments and Agencies, Community Mobilization, Domestication of International Treaties and Conventions on Gender as well as Policy and Programmes on Gender Violence. Mrs. Hussein is the founding Principal Secretary of the State

Department of Gender Affairs after it was created in 2015. She has successfully steered the department and promoted gender equality and women empowerment initiatives and innovatively steered access to, and the strengthening of the Governance and Management of Affirmative Action Funds. It is also under her leadership that the government has for the first time launched a comprehensive multi stakeholder 4 year program valued at \$1.2 M aimed at eliminating Gender Based Violence in the country. Mrs. Hussein is a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government (MPA, Business and Economics) and the University of Nairobi (MBA – Business, International Business Management).



### **Mr. Yannick Glemarec is Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women.**

Mr. Glemarec joined the United Nations in 1989. He has held increasingly responsible positions with UNDP Country Offices in Viet Nam, China and Bangladesh. He served as UNDP Executive Coordinator for the Global Environment Facility and Director of Environment Finance in New York from June 2007 to January 2012 and then as Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office from February 2013 to March 2015. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women on 6 March 2015. In this capacity, he is responsible for setting the direction and guiding the planning, coordination, management and oversight of all activities and services provided by the Programme and Policy Bureau. He serves as one of two Deputies to the Executive Director of UN Women. He holds a PhD

from the University of Paris in Environmental Sciences, and two Master's Degrees in Hydrology and in Business Administration. has authored and co-authored several publications in the field of disaster risk management, sustainable development, clean energy and climate finance.

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**Ms. Yin Lin, Co-Founder of SheWorx**, which is the global collective for ambitious female entrepreneurs redefining leadership. SheWorx is building a stronger ecosystem for female entrepreneurs by creating opportunities for the right mindsets, skillset, and networks to develop. SheWorx is building the next generation of women leaders through entrepreneurial education for young women through the SheWorx Foundation (501c3). The SheWorx Foundation will launch programming in 2018. Ms. Lin's entrepreneurial spirit developed out of necessity at an early age when her family emigrated from a rural village in Fuzhou, China to the U.S. and started a restaurant. As one of two English speakers in her family, she was responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the business for over 8 years. Previously she co-founded a design and development agency that helped early stage startups to build out their brand and technology at their most critical juncture. Clients that have leveraged their expertise have gone on to raise over \$27M in

funding. She was an associate at Techstars, one of the most selective technology accelerators in the world. Ms. Lin is a former Teach for America corps member and currently serves on the Teach for America Alumni Board. She also serves on the Innovation Council for [FWD.us](http://FWD.us). Ms. Lin graduated with honors from Tufts University. She has been recognized as 17 Inspiring Women to Watch in 2017 by Inc. and Top 20 Entrepreneurs by CIO. She is a triathlete and a 5-time marathon runner with plans to run a marathon and climb a summit on every continent.



**Ms. Marcia Nelson is Managing Director of Alberleen Family Office Solutions & Founder of Deals and Divas.** Ms. Nelson is responsible for client marketing and development of Alberleen's network of family offices and private investors. Ms. Nelson has a 20-year track record of working with family offices and their advisors, collaborating with other families and creating thought leadership around impact investing and philanthropic giving. She started her career working for an ultra-high-net-worth philanthropic family, and subsequently managed business development and relationship management in the areas of estate planning, finance and accounting at firms including FMV Opinions, Marcum, and Anchin, Block & Anchin. Ms. Nelson is passionate about women's issues, and founded Deals and Divas, an educational and networking organization focused on engaging and supporting women entrepreneurs. She serves on the board of The Association for Corporate Growth –ACG- NY, where she chairs programming and is a member

of the Family Office Committee. Ms. Nelson earned her BA from Southern Utah State College and her MBA in finance and tax from Fordham University. She is a Utah native and is very active in the Mormon Church.



**Ms. Tushara Canekaratne, Co-Founder and Advisor, Virtusa Corporation, Founder and CEO, Nadastra, Inc.** Ms. Canekaratne's leadership role with Virtusa Corporation was pivotal in building the global operation and the operating culture within Virtusa. She was instrumental in crafting Virtusa's initial vision, developing a world-class delivery execution engine, while leading global technical operations and securing and nurturing client engagements. She is a global leader and entrepreneur with 25 plus years of broad and deep experience in the Information Technology Industry with an emphasis on enterprise software development, scaling and growing global companies from the ground up, global operations excellence in people, process and technology innovation, and customer focus and value. She has focused on building strong global teams, developing leadership and international relationships, and implementing global models to support business needs with quality and excellence, while managing to impact overall revenue growth

and profitability. Ms. Canekaratne is an investor in early stage companies, and an advocate for education and young leaders. Prior to her current position, she served as Executive Vice President of Global Technical Operations. Ms. Canekaratne initiated and spearheaded Virtusa's client delight strategy, providing critical leadership, mentoring and rigor and instilling the factors that have contributed to Virtusa's engagement teams frequently exceeding client expectations. In May of 2006, Ms. Canekaratne received the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2005 Award from the Women's Chamber of Commerce (WCIC) of Sri Lanka. Born, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, she is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Fray School, Southborough, MA. Ms. Canekaratne serves on several boards including: Brigham and Women's Hospital Advisory Council, Board of Directors for The Home for the Little Wanderers, Harvard Graduate School of Education Dean's Leadership Council and Learn to Change the World Campaign Co-Chair & Executive Committee, Harvard University Campaign Executive Committee, and Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Coalition steering committee. She also serves on the Finance and Audit Committees of City Year's national board. Ms. Canekaratne holds a BS in Computer Science and Mathematics (1988) from Loughborough University (UK) and was awarded Honorary Doctor of the University (2015) in recognition of her significant successes in global information technology and for her outstanding contributions to a range of charitable organisations. She was a 2015 Fellow and 2016 Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Initiative, and 2017 Distinguished Career Institute Fellow at Stanford University, CA.

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**Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekera is the Chairperson of the National Committee on Women of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs in Sri Lanka.** Mrs. Sumanasekera is a gender specialist with the National Committee on Women. She has worked extensively in the field of gender equality and entrepreneurship among women including making positive changes in the former areas of conflict for the economic enhancement and protection of war widows. She has a long period of experience in the gender field by having worked as Director of the Women's Bureau, Secretary to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and functioning as a gender Consultant to the ADB Projects on Water Supply, Education, Vocational training and Road Development. She is responsible for organizing women at the grass root level and forming women's societies, establishing micro credit schemes during her tenure as the Director of the Women's

Bureau. Currently she is working on policy matters, specially focusing on gender based violence, advocating for law reforms and promoting women's political participation. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Mrs. Sumansekera with her vast range of expertise is involved in capacity building measures and implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.



**Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe is the Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN.** Ms. Sanarasinghe has a Masters in International Affairs from the Australian National University, Canberra, and a Law Degree from the University of London. Enrolled as an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 1992, she worked for several years in the Attorney General's Department in Sri Lanka. She has been a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, an Edward R. Murrow Fellow in Washington DC, and an International Journalist in Residence at the Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York. Ms. Samarasinghe has also been a lecturer at Ithaca College where she taught in the Legal, Honors and Communications Departments. She was a visiting scholar at Cornell University. Before her foray into multilateral diplomacy, Ms. Samarasinghe was an award-winning lawyer, investigative journalist and editor. Among her many international awards include the Hellmann Hammett Award for persecuted journalists, the

Images and Voices of Hope Award for Print and Digital Journalism in New York, Pen International's Oxfam Novib/PEN Award for Freedom of Expression and the Global Shining Light Award for Investigative Journalism by the Global Investigative Journalism Conference.

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[www.ngocsd-ny.org](http://www.ngocsd-ny.org)