



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Supporting the United Nations & Communities Globally

*"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"*

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

## "Partnerships for People & Planet: Sharing Responsibility & Resources"



**Mr. Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC. Honorary Adviser of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.** Mr. Reshad is a versatile and tactical entrepreneur with over 20 years of international venture experience. He brings a proven track record of leadership, international project management, trade financing, global sales and marketing, international joint venture, cross-cultural communication and venture capital experience to each engagement. Mr. Reshad began his career as a small business consultant, specializing in international sourcing, production and import/export operations focusing in the textile and fashion industries. His other projects concentrated in emerging markets, focusing on infrastructure and real estate development. Currently, Mr. Reshad as the Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC (GAP) assists companies identify and monetize global business opportunities. The company specializes in Global Business Development, Project Acquisition and Management, Infrastructure/PPP, Government Relations, Impact Investing, and Strategic and Capital Raise Consulting. GAP plans to invest in Small Island Developing States in several

sectors such as, but not limited to Sustainable infrastructure, Climate Change Industry and Innovation, Renewable Energy and Agriculture. GAP is partnering with stakeholders to invest in advancing technology to clean ocean plastics pollution and converting waste into a resource. Prior to GAP, Mr. Reshad Co-founded and Managed Sybaris Consulting Group LLC (Sybaris), which strategized with clients to identify opportunities for investment in post-conflict emerging markets and frontier markets. Sybaris provides full-cycle advisory services ranging from business development planning for project structure, leading negotiations with funding sources and designing a sustainable and secure path for infrastructure projects. He also serves on the boards of numerous professional and charitable organizations, while developing partnerships to support the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



**Ms. Dena Mekawi, is the CEO of Style & Resilience PR, and a UN Representative for Women's National Book Association.** Style & Resilience PR is a boutique Public Relations & consulting agency that partners with brands, high-profile individuals, corporations, non-profits, and businesses, helping them achieve their strategic messaging goals, while also creating space for inclusive representation through mainstream media, highlighting stories of global resilience and pop culture's role in social good. Ms. Mekawi holds a Masters Degree in digital publishing from Pace University, where she was working at Oprah Magazine. She realized her passion for media and storytelling can be used to make an impact, globally, shifting how we consume media by inclusive representation. Ms. Mekawi used her experiences of growing up facing discrimination, and experiencing self-esteem issues as a tool to empower this generation of women and minorities. From Miss Arab USA 2013, to Oprah Magazine, Ms. Mekawi used her experience of self-discovery as an Arab American to work collectively, creating space for culture diversity. Ms. Mekawi has been working closely with media and those influencing culture, to create more inclusiveness within corporations and private sector, bringing the arts to the United Nations.

From co-organizing one of the first Sustainable Fashion shows at the United Nations, to partnering with The Global Goals World Cup, using sports to play for one of the Global goals, creating private sector partnerships, Ms. Mekawi understands how to leverage voices for social good, understanding how to integrate cultural conversations and develop it into business imperatives. As a thought leader, Ms. Mekawi strategizes to assemble social innovators, change makers, and diverse influencers to achieve evident change. She used her experiences of growing up facing discrimination, and self-esteem issues as first generation Muslim American, as a tool to empower this generation of youth.

[www.styleandresilience.com](http://www.styleandresilience.com)



**Mr. Manyang Reath Kher is the Founder of 734 Coffee and the Founder/Director of Humanity Helping Sudan, Honorary Adviser of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.** Mr. Kher is a respected authority on the South Sudanese refugee crisis. He spent nearly 14 years of his childhood as a Lost Boy of Sudan before coming to America. He graduated from J.R. Tucker High School in Virginia and he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Richmond. For the past ten years, he has not only pursued his education, but also dedicated his life to raising awareness and money for the refugee crisis through his non-profit Humanity Helping Sudan. In 2014, he was awarded the "Excellence in Paying it Forward" award by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at the National Migration Conference held in Washington, DC. In 2012, he was a semi-finalist for the VH1 Do Something Award Program where he was honored as one of the best world-changers 25 and under. His story was broadcast nationally. In addition, the American Red Cross aired a national advertising campaign on Mr. Kher's life story. If that isn't enough, celebrity Beyoncé Knowles took notice of Mr.

Kher's work and invited him to the World Humanitarian Day event in New York City in August of 2012 for further intercultural dialogue. Then, in 2014, he was one of 40 non-profits officially invited to attend the Soccer World Cup in Brazil to represent his cause. His remarkable story and commitment to helping refugees continues to inspire and amaze. He recently spoke at the United Nations about his work for refugees. Mr. Kher is an Honorary Adviser for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and he is a member of the NGOCS-D-NY SDGs Education Alliance which has a mandate to work in partnership incorporating the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals in all levels of education for everyone to ensure that we "Leave No One Behind." Recently, Mr. Kher launched a coffee brand called 734 (734, or 7.9220°N and 34.1532°E, is the geographical coordinates for Gambela, a region in Ethiopia where over 200,000 South Sudanese citizens take refuge.) Proceeds go towards establishing farms, providing water, chickens and other means for the refugees to live a meaningful, aid-free life. He is helping Sudan refugee children to ensure that they have an education for a sustainable future.



**Ms. Margo LaZaro, is the President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY** Further, Ms. LaZaro represents the Huairou Commission, Global Family and Youth for a Better World: MMUN at the United Nations. She has thirty years of experience at the United Nations working in the UN NGO Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with impactful messages that include the SDGs. She is a member of the Habitat Civil Society Work Group, the NGO Major Group and the Women’s Major Group for the High Level Political Forum. She served as a member of the multi-stakeholder Steering Committee for the 2017 UN Ocean Conference at UN Headquarters with the UN Foundation and the Office of the President of the 71st session of UN General Assembly. Ms. LaZaro has played an instrumental role in the planning and execution of several UN DPI/NGO briefings and conferences. In 2007, 2009 and 2011, she was actively involved in the rolling out UN DPI/NGO Conferences in New York and on the road, namely the 60th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, on “Climate Change: How it Impacts Us All” in New York City, the 62nd Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!” (Mexico City) and the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, under the theme “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens” (Bonn). In 2014 and 2017 she took on leadership positions in the planning process for key UN meetings. She is an expert in highlighting the outstanding contributions made by leading global change makers and bringing the initiatives undertaken by them to the United Nations and the global community. Ms. LaZaro’s work is mainly focused on all areas of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are related to grassroots outreach for women and girls, climate change, gender equality, ending violence against women and children, women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, ending hunger, ocean clean up and renewable energy resources, human rights, education, clean water, health and well-being for all, disarmament, peace and security, youth leadership, the New Urban Agenda and engagement with media, technology and communication outlets. She studied Art & Design in New York. Her career as a Designer gave her a solid foundation for taking on issues and developing creative impactful solutions. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: “Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change.” She has most recently focused on bringing entrepreneurs and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we “Leave No One Behind.”



**Ms. Siham Sh Mumin, Founder of BeWell BeYou!** Ms. Mumin recently graduated from the University of Rochester in New York where she was the Co-President of the University of Rochester Refugee Student Alliance and Vice President of University of Rochester Society of Undergraduate Public Health. She majored in Public Health with the concentration of Health, Behavior and Society and minored in Psychology. She was born and raised in Somaliland. Though officially part of Somalia, Somaliland has its own government institutions and has made huge improvements over the past few decades. For instance, female reproductive health remains a problem. As a female and an aspiring public health professional, Ms. Mumin has spent a lot of time thinking about female health issues in Somaliland. It deeply saddens her that millions of girls and women in her country lack even the most basic health needs. This inspired her to come up with a grassroots initiative: BeWell BeYou! to promote female reproductive health in Somaliland, particularly focusing on menstrual health, feminine hygiene management, and female genital mutilation (FGM). Females will be able to anonymously tell their stories, making the issue public throughout society, while enlisting all of society to protect girls and women’s health. This summer she is interning with Saving Mothers, where she performs research and logistical support for their newly launched Women’s Reproductive Health program in Uganda, as well as for evolution of existing programs in Kenya, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and Saving Mothers have formed a Strategic Partnership to support these initiatives.



**Ms. Racha Harizi, is an International Affairs Student at Wagner College.** Ms. Harizi was born and raised in Algiers, Algeria for twelve years. She moved to the United States with her family and settled in New York City, more specifically, Staten Island. She began Middle school without any knowledge of the English Language and American Culture. French and Arabic are the native languages of Algeria, and knowing these languages helped her learn English at the fastest pace. There were many conflicting situations as she and her family began to adapt to society, however, their diligence and motivation helped them excel and surpass many challenges. She graduated high school with scholar’s merit, and now is attending her second year at Wagner College. She is studying International Affairs with a concentration of political economics, and minoring in Business and French. Aside from her education, she is very much involved with her school community. She is a member of French Club, Management Club, German Club, and is a member of International Communications Council, where she is the director of Communications. She loves culture and languages; aside from knowing French, Arabic, and English, she is currently learning Spanish and is planning to learn Italian afterwards. She aspires to be involved, and eventually work for the United Nations under the Economic and Social Affairs. Her hope is to start her career early in International Affairs and Business to gain enough knowledge and experience in her life. It is important to her to positively affect people who need guidance and advice. Therefore, she plans to achieve a doctorate degree and teach at universities later in her life.



**Ms. Funmilayo Ogunbufunmi, MPH Candidate at NYU College of Global Public Health, Research Assistant at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Vice President of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students, Kearns Scholar.** Ms. Ogunbufunmi is a recent college graduate from the University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Science in Cell and Developmental Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Health Behavior and Society from Ondo, Nigeria. She was a part of the Nigerian AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS), one of the largest HIV/AIDS surveys ever conducted, designed to map the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. This survey has promise to show the effectiveness of HIV interventions already set in place around Nigeria. The survey is a collaboration between the University of Maryland, the Center for Disease Control Nigeria, the Global Fund among many other organizations. She is set to start her Masters Degree in Global Public Health in NYU this Fall.

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