

## **GFMD Dialogue on the GCM – Speaker Biographies**

*6 April, Palais des Nations*

### **Working Session I:**

*Chair: Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs, Republic of Turkey*

Amb. Samsar currently serves as the Director General for Consular Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship of 2014-2015, he chaired GFMD Preparatory and Thematic Meetings. He previously served, inter alia, as the Ambassador of Turkey in Kiev. He is also the Chair of the Budapest Process.

*Input speaker: Ambassador Rosemary McCarney, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UNOG*

On September 1, 2015, Amb. McCarney commenced her appointment as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations and to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament to be based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Amb. McCarney is an award-winning humanitarian and business leader, and a recognized expert on international economic development. She has developed strong business management and organizational leadership skills with more than 30 years of global senior management and executive experience. She led Plan International Canada, which is one of the oldest and largest charities in Canada. With many years of Executive experience, she has provided leadership and governance to a wide range of global organizations.

Amb. McCarney worked with the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, USAID and the Canadian International Development Agency, as well as with foreign governments and UN bodies. Amb. McCarney was first Executive Director of the Canada- US Law Institute and taught international and constitutional law at Case Western Reserve University, from 1979 to 1982, and International Business Transactions Law at the University of Toronto, from 1984 to 1988. She has practiced law in the US and Canada and has held executive level management positions in the private and not-for-profit sector.

*Input speaker: Mr. William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia*

Mr. Gois is the Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), a regional network of migrants' organizations, NGOs, advocates, grassroots organizations and trade unions working to promote the rights and wellbeing of migrant workers and members of their families. Over the last twenty years, he has been at the forefront of international advocacy efforts engaging and influencing international and multilateral organisations to promote equitable and fair migration and development policies. He works closely with UN Treaty Bodies, with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Committee on Migrant Workers and other special mandates.

Mr. Gois is an educator, sociologist and human rights advocate. He has been working on human rights education for more than a decade and has been teaching social consciousness among University students across the Asia Pacific region. From 1990 to 1995, he has worked extensively with religious and cross cultural dialogues in Pakistan.

*Rapporteur: Ms. Carolina Hernandez, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR*

Ms. Hernandez currently works as a Human Rights Officer at OHCHR. She was recently seconded to office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, Ms. Louise Arbour.

## **Working Session II:**

*Chair: Mr. Arturo Cabrera, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UNOG*

Mr. Cabrera is the former advisor of the Minister of Defense of Ecuador. He is also the former representative of Ecuador to the UN in Geneva, to the Organization of American States in Washington D.C., and to the Government of the United States of America.

He is lecturer and Researcher on International Security and Protection/Human Security and International Negotiations.

*Input speaker: Ambassador Negash Kibret Batora, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the UNOG*

Ambassador Negash Kebret Batora is currently the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organisations in Switzerland and Vienna and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. In his 38 years of diplomatic service, he worked both in multilateral and bilateral fields promoting Ethiopia's external relations with other countries, regional and international organisations.

He was Director-General for International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before assuming his current post. He was also Ambassador and Acting Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in New York. He served as Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the State of Israel, Non Resident Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic of Greece and to the Holy See. Chargé d' affaires a.i., (with the Rank of Ambassador) of the Ethiopian Embassy in New Delhi, India. As a diplomat, he has served abroad in Ethiopian Permanent Mission in Geneva twice, and Ethiopian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.

He worked previously in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as the Head of the Foreign Minister's Office and Director General of Asia, Australasia and Middle East and African Bilateral Affairs General Directorates. He has participated in a number of international and regional (United Nations and African Union and their Specialized Agencies and Committees, Non-Aligned Movement etc.) meetings in the fields of Human Rights, Refugees, Decolonization, Disarmament and peace and security in general. He headed the OAU (AU) Mission of the Great Lakes Region (Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Zaire and Burundi) representing both the then Chairman and Secretary General of OAU in 1995. He was a member of the delegations led by H. E. the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia for official state visits to Kuwait, Japan, India, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and the State of Israel. He has served as Chairperson of the African Group in New York for the month of July 2008.

*Input speaker: Mr. David Khoudour, Head of the Migration and Skills Unit, OECD Development Centre*

David Khoudour is an economist at the OECD Development Centre, where he has coordinated the work on international migration since April 2010. He particularly manages the MacArthur Foundation-funded project on Effective Partnerships for Better Migration Management and Development. Previously, he was a researcher at the CEPII (2008-2010), a French think-tank focusing on international economics, and a lecturer at Sciences Po in Paris, from where he holds a Ph.D. in

economics (2005). He has also been a Fulbright scholar (2004-2005) at the University of California-Berkeley, a professor of economics and the director of the research centre on international migration (2005-2008) at the Universidad Externado de Colombia in Bogota, and a consultant for the OECD, the ILO and the IOM. His research work is mainly focused on the migration-development nexus, an issue on which he has extensively published.

*Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro de Vasconcelos, Manager, IFAD*

Mr. De Vasconcelos joined IFAD in 2007 and is currently manager of the Financing Facility for Remittance (FFR) Multi-donor Fund and senior technical specialist on Remittances, migration and inclusive finance.

In 2000, and prior to IFAD, Mr. De Vasconcelos created, launched and coordinated the remittance programme at the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund (FOMIN). During the same period Mr. De Vasconcelos also launched and coordinated the FOMIN's ICT for development programme. From 1998 to 2000, Mr De Vasconcelos served at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva under the project Micro Banks in cooperation with the Banque International du Luxembourg. Mr. Vasconcelos areas of expertise range from financial inclusion for development (remittances, payments systems, and investments), migration, SME development and finance, innovative technologies applications, and UAV technologies for rural development and agriculture.

Mr. De Vasconcelos holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Business from the University of Toulouse-France and a Masters in International Business and Management from the University of Paris IV, La Sorbonne.

### **Working Session III:**

*Chair: Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the UNOG:*

Ravinatha Pandukabhaya Aryasinha is Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Consul General of Sri Lanka to Switzerland since 18 July 2012. He is also concurrently Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the Holy See. He is the Chair of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of States of the G15- a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries and Chair of the Permanent Representatives of the Colombo Process- the Regional Consultative Process on migration for countries of origin in Asia.

Born on 13 September 1961, Ambassador Aryasinha graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 1984 and thereafter received a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the University of Colombo in 1990. He was a 'Hurst Fellow' in International Relations at the School of International Service (SIS), American University, Washington DC in 2001-2002. His research interest is the influence of diaspora on the foreign policy of host states.

Ambassador Aryasinha joined the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 1988, and initially served as Assistant Director in the East Division. From 1989 to 1991 he served as Second Secretary at the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi, India and upon his return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs served as Assistant Director in the South Asia Division. On leave from the Foreign Service, in 1993-1995 he served as National Information Officer in the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka. He was Director/Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1995-2000. In September 2002, he was posted as Minister (Political) to the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington, D.C., and later served as Deputy Chief of Mission with Ambassador Rank in the Mission in 2005-2006. He served as Director General/Spokesman Ministry of Foreign Affairs from March 2007-March 2008 and as Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and to the European Union from April 2008- June 2012.

Prior to joining the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, he was a Political Correspondent at the 'Ceylon Daily News' Newspaper (1980 -1981) and was a pioneer in the setting up of Rupavahini, the National Television Network of Sri Lanka, where he served as a Senior Political Correspondent/News Editor from 1982-1988.

Ambassador Aryasinha has been a visiting Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Colombo 1991-2000. He has many publications/writings to his credit mainly dealing with International Relations, Diaspora Politics, Counter-Terrorism and South Asian Politics. He has co-authored a chapter 'Spoilers or Catalysts: The role of Diaspora in Peace Processes' with Yossi Shain of Georgetown University, in Edward Newman & Oliver Richmond (Ed) Challenges to Peace Building: Managing Spoilers during conflict resolution (U.N. University Press, 2006). He has also contributed to academic journals including Conflict, Security and Development (King's College, UK), and presented papers at conferences of the International Studies Association (ISA), the Association for Study of Nationalities (ASN), the East-West Center and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS).

*Input speaker: Mr. Alex Zalami, Advisor to H.E. the Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation, United Arab Emirates*

Mr. Zalami joined the UAE Ministry of Labour in January, 2007, where he serves as Advisor to the Minister on international relations, regional and international cooperation, and labor mobility administration. He has served as a GFMD focal point for the UAE since 2008, represented the UAE as co-chair of the GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on the Protection and Empowerment of Migrant Workers and member of the GFMD Assessment Group. He co-chaired roundtable sessions at successive GFMD summits.

Prior to assuming his position at the UAE Ministry of labour, Mr. Zalami established a center of business ethics and corporate governance at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and served as its director until December 2006.

Mr. Zalami holds a post-graduate degree in Mathematics from California State University and another in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California at Berkeley.

*Input speaker: Mr. JaapBuis, Public Affairs Manager, Randstad Holding*

JaapBuis works for Randstad Holding since 1995, a Dutch company that is specialized in employment and Human Resource services. Currently he works as Public Affairs manager and is responsible for conducting and commissioning labour market research. The latest study 'People to Jobs, Jobs to People' deals with global mobility and labour migration and was published last March. He studied economics at the University of Amsterdam and lives in Amsterdam.

*Rapporteur: Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, ILO*

Ms. Leighton received her LL.M degree from the London school of Economics and Political Science, London, England, her J.D. from Golden Gate University Law School with honors, and B.A. from the University of California at Davis.

Ms. Leighton has taught on many law faculties in Asia, Europe and the United States. She has served as an adviser and consultant to international institutions, government, and non-profit organizations since 1992. Ms. Leighton coordinated various research projects with academics, government agencies and local experts on migration, including in the Americas, Africa, Central Europe and Central Asia. Most recently, Ms. Leighton co-founded and was Deputy Director of the American University of Central Asia's Tian Shan Policy Center and Professor of Law, after serving as the United States

Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan. She served as the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability for the United Nations University-EHS Institute, Bonn, Germany from 2009-2012.

Ms. Leighton's expertise is in labour migration, democratic governance, human rights and human security and she has conducted global and field research into best practices and the linkages between human migration and development, including impacts to rural livelihoods from unsustainable agricultural land and water management, and climate change.