

Opening Plenary of the Common Space

09:00-09:45, 30 June 2017

Mrs. Louise Arbour

*United Nations Special Representative of the
Secretary General for International Migration*

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced March 9 2017 the nomination of Louise Arbour of Canada as his Special Representative for International Migration.



The Special Representative is leading the follow-up to the migration-related aspects of the 19 September 2016 High-level Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. Ms. Arbour is working with Member States, in partnership with other stakeholders, as they develop a first-ever global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. She is leading United Nations advocacy efforts on international migration, provide policy advice and coordinate the engagement of United Nations entities on migration issues, particularly in implementing the migration-related components of the New York Declaration.

Ms. Arbour has a long and distinguished career in international affairs. She previously served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and as Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. She is a former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. From 2009 to 2014, Ms. Arbour was President and CEO of the International Crisis Group.

Throughout her career, Louise Arbour has published extensively, in both English and French, in the fields of human rights, civil liberties, gender issues and criminal procedure. In addition, she has performed editorial work on behalf of the Criminal Reports, the Canadian Rights Reporter, the Osgoode Hall Law Journal and La Revue Générale de Droit, and has been a guest speaker at many conferences and presentations throughout the world.

Ms. Wies Maas

Chair of GFMD Civil Society Days 2017

Ms. Wies Maas currently works as consultant for Oxfam Novib on a global displacement and human development project. Before this assignment, Wies worked as civil society liaison in New York on the 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, where she coordinated an Civil Society Action Committee of 22 NGO, on behalf of ICMC, ICVA and the NGO Committee on Migration.



Prior to that, Wies worked for years for ICMC in Geneva, New York and Brussels, as Program Manager for MADE and as coordinator of civil society activities related to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).



Mr. Gibril Faal

GK Partners & ADEPT

Gibril Faal is currently a director of GK Partners – a UK-based company that advises socially responsible businesses on ethical business models, social enterprise, legal structures, ethical and Islamic finance, corporate responsibility etc. He is a board member of the EC-UN Joint Migration & Development Initiative based in Brussels and chairman of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) – a charity which works to extend and enhance the role Diasporans play in African development. He is also the founder of RemitAid™ – a programme to transform remittances into a sustainable form of international development finance using tax reliefs and other macroeconomic policies.



Gibril was previously a lecturer with The Open University, teaching on the MSc course in Global Development Management. In June 2006, he was appointed to undertake the independent evaluation of the non-academic impact of University of Oxford's Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS). He has been a management consultant, business adviser and University lecturer for nearly 20 years – working on private, public and charitable sector development. Whilst on a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-funded project, he was one of the pioneers of social enterprise business support delivery in the UK.

His qualifications include: Combined Honours degree in Law, Finance & Management and postgraduate degrees in both Environmental Sciences and Development Studies. He has been a member of several professional and academic bodies including the Chartered Institute of Arbitration, Chartered Management Institute, Chartered Institute of Transport, Institute of Islamic Banking & Insurance, Institution of Environmental Sciences and the Royal Society of Arts. He has led projects and written papers on a wide range of political economy, business management and international development themes. He has been a leading innovator on how to improve the economic and developmental impacts of diaspora and migrant remittances. Since 2005, he has delivered many expert papers and led expert workshops on international development finance and remittances for institutions such as: United Nations, World Bank, European Union, International Organization for Migration, UK and European Ministries for International Development, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, several Universities and professional bodies.

