

## SPEAKERS' BIOS

*Thematic Workshop on GFMD's Contribution to  
the Global Compact on Migration*

- Cluster 1 –

*Human Rights of All Migrants*

### **Amb. Arturo Cabrera**

*Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the  
United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva*

Ambassador Cabrera is currently Ecuador's Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. Beginning his career in diplomacy in 1988, Ambassador Cabrera has held several positions in the fields of migration governance and foreign affairs. Under the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), he served as the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs. After his post at the MFA, he was subsequently appointed as the Undersecretary for International Migration under the Ministry of Migration.



Aside from being a career diplomat, Ambassador Cabrera is also an attorney-at-law and an experienced lecturer and researcher. For his PhD, he specialized in International Regimes and Intelligence at Leiden University and on Public Administration for his master's degree at Harvard University. Over the years, he has earned numerous academic laurels from prestigious institutions being hailed as an Edward Mason Fellow at Harvard University and earning certificates in leadership management and international relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) respectively. Demonstrating his academic prowess, Ambassador Cabrera graduated as Valedictorian at the Diplomatic Academy of Ecuador and Catholic University of Ecuador School of Law.



### **Amb. Esteban Conejos**

*Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
the Philippines to the World Trade Organization (WTO)*

When the Philippines assumed the GFMD Chairmanship in 2008, Ambassador Esteban Conejos, then Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), was appointed as the Presidential Special Envoy to the GFMD and the Secretary General of the Philippine National Organizing Committee for GFMD. In this capacity, he headed all substantive and administrative preparations for the Manila meeting, focusing the GFMD discussion on *rights* and *security*—two priority areas identified by the governments at the outset of the GFMD process.



Ambassador Conejos' extensive involvement in international migration policy and practice can be traced back to his beginnings in the Philippines as the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs. Under his post, he led the Philippine Delegation in various international conferences and gatherings such as the 3 consecutive Meetings of the Philippines- Malaysia Working Group on Migrant Workers' Affairs, 2007 Asia Pacific Conference on International Migration and Development and the 2007 ASEAN Ministerial Meeting which negotiated the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, paving the way for the establishment of a Committee for the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration.

After his stint at DFA and GFMD, he subsequently served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from July 2012 to June 2016. As the Ambassador, he has held numerous key positions such as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation, Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Environment, and a member of the Philippine Delegation to the WTO Ministerial Conference in 2013 and 2015 to name a few.

Through the years, Ambassador Conejos has quickly ascended through political ranks in the Philippines in the fields of migration governance and international trade. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the San Carlos Major Seminary, a Bachelor of Law degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, before receiving a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University.

## **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**

*Director of the New York Office*

*Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*



Mr. Craig Mokhiber is Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. A lawyer and specialist in international human rights law, policy and methodology, he has served the UN since January of 1992. His early UN work included the design and implementation of programmes for human rights assessments, for human rights in the administration of justice, and for human rights in elections. As chief of the Human Rights and Development Team in the 1990s, Mokhiber led the development of OHCHR's original work on the right to development, human rights-based approaches to development and human rights-sensitive definitions of poverty.

He represented OHCHR at UN Headquarters in New York through most of the 2000's, throughout the UN's human rights reform process, including in the lead up to the World Summit, and in the process leading to the establishment of the Human Rights Council. He has also served as the UN's Senior Human Rights Advisor in both Palestine and in Afghanistan, led the team of human rights specialists attached to the High Level Mission on Darfur, headed the Rule of Law and Democracy Unit, and served as Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch and as Chief of the Economic and Social Issues Section at OHCHR Headquarters.

