

High Commissioner's Dialogue 2020

Final Session, 9 December, 14:00 – 16:00 (CET)

Speakers

Part 1 moderated by Ms. Dana Hughes



Ms. Dana Hughes is the Senior Regional Communications Officer for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency based in Nairobi. Prior to joining UNHCR, she was an award-winning journalist for the U.S. broadcast network ABC News for a decade, specializing in social justice and investigative journalism. She spent nearly five years in Kenya as ABC's Sub-Saharan Africa reporter, and was based in Washington D.C., where she covered U.S. foreign affairs and national security for the network.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Filippo Grandi, *UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Opening remarks)*



Filippo Grandi became the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 2016. He was elected by the UN General Assembly to serve a five-year term, until 31 December 2020. He was born in Milan in 1957 and has been engaged in refugee and humanitarian work for more than 30 years. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, having previously been its Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. He also served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan and has worked with NGOs and UNHCR in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and at our Geneva headquarters. Grandi holds a degree in modern history from the State University in Milan, a BA in Philosophy from the Gregorian University in Rome and an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.

Ms. Maha Al Barjas, *General Secretary, Kuwait Red Crescent Society*



Ms. Maha Al Barjas, who holds a Bachelor of Political Science from Kuwait University, has been Secretary General of Kuwait Red Crescent since 2016. She started her career as a Political Researcher at the Diwan of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister then moved to Controllorship of the Secretariat of the Department of Public Administration and assumed the position of Director of the Coordination and Follow-up Department at the Crown Prince's Court in 2003. She is known for her volunteer work in many organizations since her childhood. Ms. Al Barjas who is a strong believer in human rights, gender equality, and humanitarian causes, is a hands-on practitioner and rarely misses a relief mission. She was awarded the Arab Woman Award for humanitarian efforts in 2013.

Mr. Michel Botzung, Manager Fragile and Conflict Situations in Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC)



Mr. Botzung joined the IFC 17 years ago and has since held several field positions in North Africa, the Middle East, India, and currently in Africa (Nairobi). Throughout his career at the IFC, Michel has focused on developing tailored (and often innovative) advisory proposals to help the IFC's clients deepen their relationships with the local economy, improve their governance, and increase their compliance with IFC's Business Standards. In his current position, as FCS (Fragile and Conflict Situations) Manager for Africa, Mr. Botzung helps the IFC growing its business in these challenging markets. His team, mostly based in the field, provides market intelligence, allocates funding, and produces and shares operational knowledge with internal and external stakeholders. Mr. Botzung has been leading the IFC's engagement in the forced displacement space in Africa, notably in Kenya around the Kakuma area.

Ms. Maria Nazareth Farani Azvedo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Geneva



A career diplomat since 1982, Ambassador Farani Aevêdo has experience promoting Brazil's interests in multiple UN institutions. She is responsible for Brazil's relations with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She was the chairperson of the Executive Board of WHO and also the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization – ILO. She is the chairperson of the Executive Committee of UNHCR. Ambassador Farani Azêvedo has worked in the areas of trade promotion, regional and multilateral economic relations, political affairs, and social development, and in numerous instances was the first woman to perform these roles for the Brazilian Government.

Ms. Bahati Ernestine Hategekimana, Youth Activities Coordinator, UNHCR Kenya



Ms. Bahati Ernestine Hategekimana is a 26-year-old Rwandan refugee living in Kenya. She recently graduated from Moi University (Eldoret-Kenya) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. While doing her internship early this year, she had the honor to be among the frontline health workers when COVID-19 hit Kenya. This was a great learning experience for her as well as an opportunity to showcase refugee contributions to the local communities. She is currently serving as a UNV at UNHCR, Nairobi, as the Youth Activities Focal Point. She is passionate about youth matters, peacebuilding, and building the capacity of the youth to be contributing members of society. She is also an advocate for girl child/women empowerment and the vulnerable in society. Her dream is to grow her career in the humanitarian field, supporting and showing kindness to those in need. She also hopes to use her academic training to nurse the wounded with both seen and unseen scars.

Mr. Malangoni Ibrahim, *Director General of Civil Status and Refugees, Ministry of Interior, Public Security, Decentralisation and Customary and Religious Affairs, Republic of Niger*

Ms. Veneranda Ingabire, *Coordinator Single Project Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees of the Republic of Rwanda*



Ms. Veneranda Ingabire has been serving as the Head of the MINEMA SPIU for the Government of Rwanda since 2016. She holds a Master of Science in Economics with 12 years of experience in project management. She ensures overall coordination of Ministry's projects and leads the process of project proposals initiation. She is in charge of refugee management and coordination activities in the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA).

Ms. Kareen Jabre, *Director, Division of Programs, Inter-Parliamentary Union*



Ms. Kareen Jabre is the Director of the Division of Programmes at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). She is responsible for directing the organisation's various programmes of support and policy guidance to parliaments. These include standard-setting work for democratic parliaments, strengthening parliament's institutional capacities in emerging democracies and post-conflict societies, and enhancing their ability to embody and advance gender equality, empower youth, promote sustainable development and health, and tackle climate change. Previously, and for 13 years, she managed the Gender Partnership Programme of the organisation. She is also currently in charge at the IPU of work on international humanitarian law and refugee protection. Before working for the IPU, Kareen Jabre worked at UNESCO in its women and gender equality coordinating unit. She holds Masters in political science and in English.

Dr. Azza Karam, *Secretary General Religions for Peace*



Prof. Dr. Azza Karam serves as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace – the largest multireligious leadership platform with 92 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils. She also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, where she is a citizen. Professor Karam served as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Coordinator/Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development (UN IATF-R&D); and founder of the Multi Faith Advisory Council of the UN IATFR & D. In those capacities, she coordinated engagement with members of a Global Interfaith Network for Population and Development with over 600 faith-based organizations from all regions of the world, representing all religions and interreligious affiliations. She was the Lead Facilitator for the United Nations' Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development and Diplomacy, building on a legacy of serving as a trainer and facilitator of intercultural leadership and management in the Arab region as well as Europe and Central Asia. Professor Karam has served in different positions in the United Nations since 2004, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations since the early 1990s, such as International IDEA, OSCE, and Religions

for Peace. Simultaneously, she lectured at various academic institutions in Europe, North America (including the United States Military Academy/West Point), Africa and the Middle East. Her Ph.D. in 1996 focused on Political Islam and became her first book in Arabic (her mother tongue) and in English. She has since published widely and in several languages, on international political dynamics, including democratization, human rights, peace and security, gender, religious engagement and sustainable development. She was born in Egypt, and now lives in the United States.

Ms. Hilda Kausiwa, Administration and Operations Manager, Refugees Department of the Ministry of Homeland Security, Republic of Malawi



Ms. Hilda Alinafe Katema Kausiwa is the Administrative and Operations Manager in the Department for Refugees and the CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Responses Framework) Focal Point for Malawi. She has a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) and has 14 years of working experience in the refugee operation in Malawi, specifically in the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Unit. As

Operations Manager, she works closely with UNHCR and other Implementing Partners supporting the Refugee Programme in Malawi on Protection and Programme-related matters.

Ms. Rachel Levitan, Vice President, International Programs, HIAS



Working closely with partners in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and at the UN Refugee Agency, Ms. Rachel Levitan helps drive the agency's international efforts to increase protection for particularly vulnerable refugees, including survivors of torture and gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, older refugees, and sexual minorities. She also leads efforts to maximize the impact of HIAS' international programmes in the fields of legal aid, resettlement, livelihoods and psychosocial assistance. Prior to working with HIAS, Ms. Levitan co-founded and directed Turkey's first legal clinic for refugees. Before that, she litigated race- and gender-based discrimination claims in federal and state courts in New York City. Ms. Levitan has published numerous journal articles and reports on international refugee protection issues. She received her Bachelor's degree from McGill University and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law.

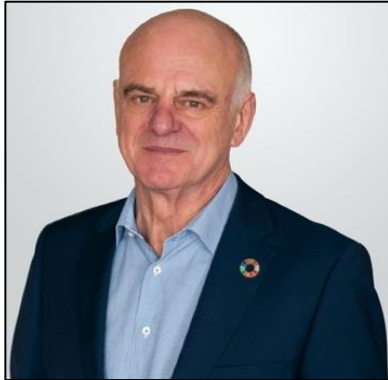
Mr. Rui Macieira, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Office at Geneva



Ambassador Rui Macieira is the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva. Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Ambassador Macieira was the Ambassador of Portugal to Denmark and Lithuania from 2014 to 2018. He served as Director General for Foreign Policy from 2012 to 2014; Director General for European Affairs from 2011 to 2012; Deputy Director General for Foreign Policy from 2008 to 2011; and Deputy Director General for European Affairs from 2006 to 2008. He was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in New York from 2002 to 2006. Other posts he has held since joining the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in March 1984 include Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister from 1995 to 1997; Deputy Head of Mission at the Portuguese Embassy in Rabat in 1995; and First Secretary at the Portuguese Embassy in Paris from 1990

to 1995. Ambassador Macieira has a degree in Economics from the Portuguese Catholic University, in Lisbon (1982) and was born in 1960 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Dr. David Nabarro, Special Envoy of the Director General on COVID-19, World Health Organization



Chair of Global Health and Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at the Imperial College London. Mr. Nabarro supports systems leadership for sustainable development through his Switzerland-based social enterprise 4SD. From March 2020, he has been appointed Special Envoy of WHO Director General on COVID-19. He secured his medical qualification in 1974 and has worked in over 50 countries – in communities and hospitals, governments, civil society, universities, and in United Nations (UN) programs. He worked for the British government in the 1990s as Head of Health and Population and Director for Human Development in the UK Department for International Development. From 1999 to 2017, he held leadership roles in the UN system (starting with the World Health Organization and finishing in the office of the UN Secretary-General). He focused on disease outbreaks and health systems, food insecurity, and nutrition, and then climate change and sustainable development. In October 2018, he received the World Food Prize, together with Lawrence Haddad, for building action coalitions for better action on nutrition across the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Georges O. Ortha II, Chief State Counsel, Department of Justice, Republic of the Philippines



Atty. Ortha joined the government service in September 2016 when he was appointed Assistant Secretary in the Department of Justice (DOJ), a post he held until he was appointed Chief State Counsel on June 10, 2020. Aside from his work as Chief State Counsel, he also sits as the representative of the DOJ Secretary in the governing boards of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, Manila International Airport Authority, and Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority. Prior to his appointment in the DOJ, Atty. Ortha was a Partner at Feria Tantoco Daos, a Law Firm founded in 1924. Atty. Ortha is married to Tanya, and they have three kids: Gian, Elian, and Iana.

Mr. Andrés Alfonso Ramírez Silva, General Coordinator of the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR), Mexico



Mr. Andrés Alfonso Ramírez Silva holds an economics degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Master degree in Rural Sociology from the Autonomous University of Chapingo. He was a professor in the Economics School at the Autonomous University of Coahuila, the UNAM and the Autonomous University of Chapingo for more than 7 years where he was also a social science researcher and Director of the Rural Sociology Department from 1982 to 1985. Mr. Ramírez worked as an international staff member in several positions with UNHCR from 1987 to 2015. He was part of the UNHCR emergency team in Ngara, Tanzania during the Great Lakes region emergency, Representative in Brazil and Costa Rica, and Deputy Representative in Afghanistan. After his retirement, he was invited to serve as Regional Representative in Panama in March 2016. Mr. Ramírez has been appointed by the current Government of Mexico as the General Coordinator of the Mexican Commission for Refugees. In this position, he was in charge of the MIRPS' first Presidency Pro-Tempore throughout 2019. Mr. Ramírez is author of several publications related to social sciences and refugees. He is fluent in Portuguese and English, and Spanish his mother tongue.

Mr. Gilberto Marcos Antonio Rodriguez, *Professor, Center for Engineering, Modelling and applied social sciences, Federal University of ABC, Brazil*



Professor Gilberto M.A. Rodrigues is a Member of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair (UNHCR) and Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). He was a visiting researcher at the Universitat Duisburg-Essen, in Germany (2019-2020); at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS), American University, Washington, DC (2017); and at the Law School, University of Notre Dame, USA (Fulbright, 2010). He is an Advisory board member of ADUS (NGO – Integration of Refugees) and member of the Red Latinoamericana de Derecho e Integración de Refugiados (RELADIR) and Red de Apoyo Legal para los Refugiados de las Americas (RALRA). He holds a PhD in Social Sciences (PUC, São Paulo), a Master in International Relations (UPEACE, Costa Rica), and an LLB (PUC, São Paulo).

Ms. Yasmine Sherif, *Director, Education Cannot Wait*



Ms. Yasmine Sherif is the Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW) - a global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crisis established by the World Humanitarian Summit. A lawyer specialized in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law (LL.M), she has 30 years of experience with the United Nations (UNHCR, UNDP, OCHA) and international NGOs, starting her international career in 1988. Ms. Sherif has served in some of the most crisis-affected countries and regions around the world, including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and across the Middle East, including

Jordan (the Syria crisis) and the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as in New York and Geneva. Her expertise spans across the humanitarian, development, human rights, gender, and peacekeeping spectrum. Ms. Sherif has also worked as an Adjunct Professor responsible for the Masters Programme on the United Nations, humanitarian assistance, and human rights at Long Island University (LIU), and has published on international humanitarian and development issues, as well as international law. She is the author of the book, *The Case for Humanity: An Extraordinary Session*, which was launched at the United Nations in New York in 2015, and a Champion for 'No Lost Generation.' In 2017, she received the annual award "Sweden's UN Friend of the Year."

Ms. Hafsar Tameesuddin, *Deputy Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network*



Ms. Tameesuddin is a Rohingya refugee who was recently resettled to New Zealand from Malaysia. During her time living as a refugee in Malaysia, she worked with ICMC in Kuala Lumpur. She was first employed in 2012 as a community trainer on SGBV and gender equality issues and then in 2017 as a case manager for the Rohingya community. She has extensive knowledge of the range of SGBV issues faced by refugee women in Malaysia as well as of their experiences prior to arrival and is a passionate advocate for improved prevention and response measures to SGBV. She has been actively engaged in advocacy related to issues of SGBV, child marriage and Statelessness for over 7 years. Since her resettlement to New Zealand only 18 months ago, she had already accepted numerous invitations to present at national and international conferences on issues of gender, and Statelessness. She was selected to represent the Asia Pacific

Refugee Rights Network, Women, Gender and Diversity working group at the UNHCR/NGO Consultations and the Gender Audit team for the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. She is committed to advocacy on all issues facing refugee women and girls in all their diversities including SGBV,

statelessness, and the particular risks faced by the LGBTIQ refugee communities. Her recent funded international speaking engagements include the World Conference on Statelessness in The Hague, from 24-26 June 2019, the Voices of Statelessness Workshop held on 18 October at Melbourne University, and the International Rohingya Youth Conference to be held in London in November 2019. She is currently studying Social Work at Auckland University and is the Deputy Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's (APRRN) Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Working Group (ANZWPG), APRRN.

Ms. Anh Thu Duong, Senior Policy Advisor, Geneva Cities Hub



Ms. Anh Thu Duong is currently a Senior Policy Adviser at the Geneva Cities Hub. Before that, she worked for 15 years at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, where she contributed to the multilateral engagement of Switzerland with the UN humanitarian and human rights organizations and bodies. During her tenure, she was seconded to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Presidency of the Human Rights Council. Ms. Duong holds an Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, a Master degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, and a Master of Arts in Politics and International Relations from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Ms. Raquel Vargas Jaubert, Director General of Migration and Aliens, Costa Rica



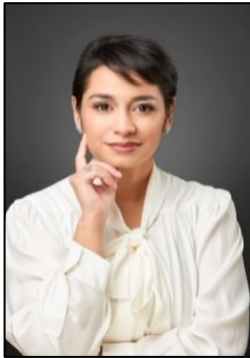
In May 2018, Mrs. Vargas Jaubert was appointed General Director of the Costa Rica's Migration Authority. In that capacity, she leads the National Coalition against Illicit Smuggling and Trafficking In persons (CONATT), the Secretariat of the National Migration Council, and is an active member of the Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM). Mrs. Vargas Jaubert has accumulated over 12 years of experience at the Migration Authority working in different positions such as Chief of the Legal Department and Chief of the Visa Department, amongst other positions.

Mr. Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva



Since September 2018, H.E. Mr. Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg has been serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He was born on 2 July 1955, is married, and has three children. He first joined the German Foreign Office in 1982 and has since served in European Community Affairs of the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn; Second Secretary at the German Embassy in Rabat, Morocco; Deputy Consul General in Leningrad/St. Petersburg, Soviet Union/Russia; Counsellor at the Permanent Mission to the European Union, Brussels; in EU-Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and German Parliament; as Head of Division for EU Enlargement in the Federal Foreign Office, Bonn/Berlin; Head of the Political Section of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, New York; Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, New York; Ambassador and Deputy Director General for the United Nations in the Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ambassador and Director General for the United Nations Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ambassador at the German Embassy in Tehran, Iran; and Ambassador at German Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia

Part 2 moderated by Ms. Anushay Hossain



Ms. Anushay Hossain is a journalist and political analyst whose work is featured on CNN, MSNBC, PBS, and more. Her writings on politics, gender, race, and immigration are published in Forbes, CNN, The Daily Beast, and Medium.

She is also the host of the [Spilling Chai](#) podcast.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Filippo Grandi, *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*



Mr. Filippo Grandi became the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 2016. He was elected by the UN General Assembly to serve a five-year term, until 31 December 2020. He was born in Milan in 1957 and has been engaged in refugee and humanitarian work for more than 30 years. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, having previously been its Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. He also served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan and has worked with NGOs and UNHCR in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and at our Geneva headquarters. Grandi holds a degree in modern history from the State University in Milan, a BA in Philosophy from the Gregorian University in Rome and an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.

Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission*



As European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Ms. Jutta Urpilainen oversees the European Commission's work on international cooperation and sustainable development. Before joining the Commission, Ms Urpilainen served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 2003 to 2019. In 2008, she became the first woman leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland. From 2011 to 2014, she served as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. During that time, she became closely involved in development issues, joining the Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF and chairing the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. She served as the Foreign Minister's Special Representative on Mediation (2017-19) and chaired the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO (2015-18).

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, *United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*



Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake was appointed as the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26. She is the youngest senior official in the UN and the first woman to hold this position. In this role, she works to expand the UN's youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of the organization's work — sustainable development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian action — and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General. In 2019, Ms. Wickramanayake was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the "Time 100 Next: Rising stars shaping the future", and in 2020, she was recognized by Forbes magazine as part of its "30 under 30" list.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Ms. Wickramanayake has worked extensively on youth development and participation, including playing a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country. Prior to taking up her post, she was instrumental in creating the movement for civic and political engagement of young people, especially young women, in Sri Lanka through the "Hashtag Generation" movement. Previously, she advocated for global youth development on an international level, including as the first ever Sri Lankan Youth Delegate to the United Nations and as the youth lead negotiator and member of the International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 where she played a critical role in mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Process and in the establishment of World Youth Skills Day.