

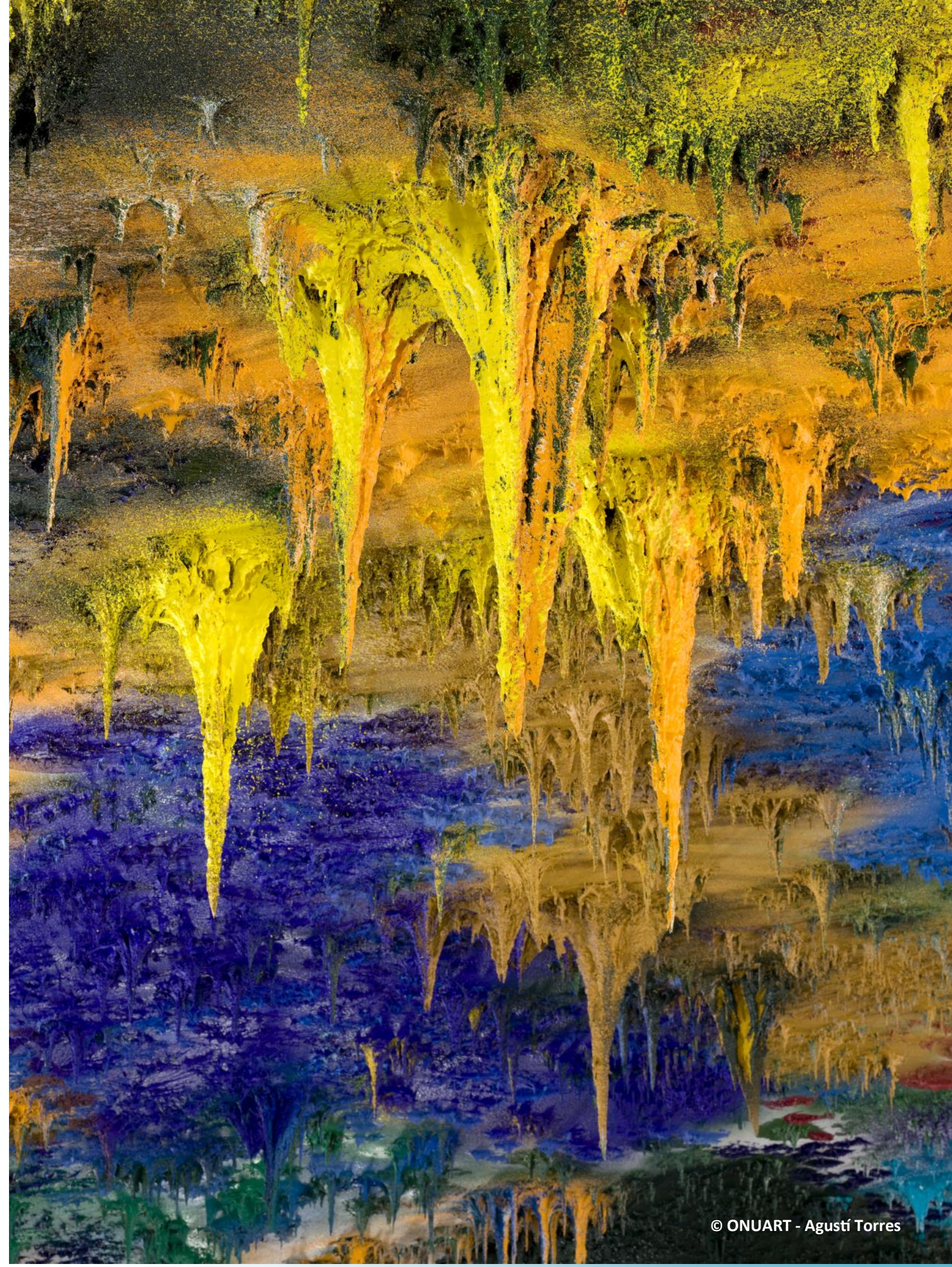
List of participants

LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Workshop for the Pacific Region

19-21 November 2019

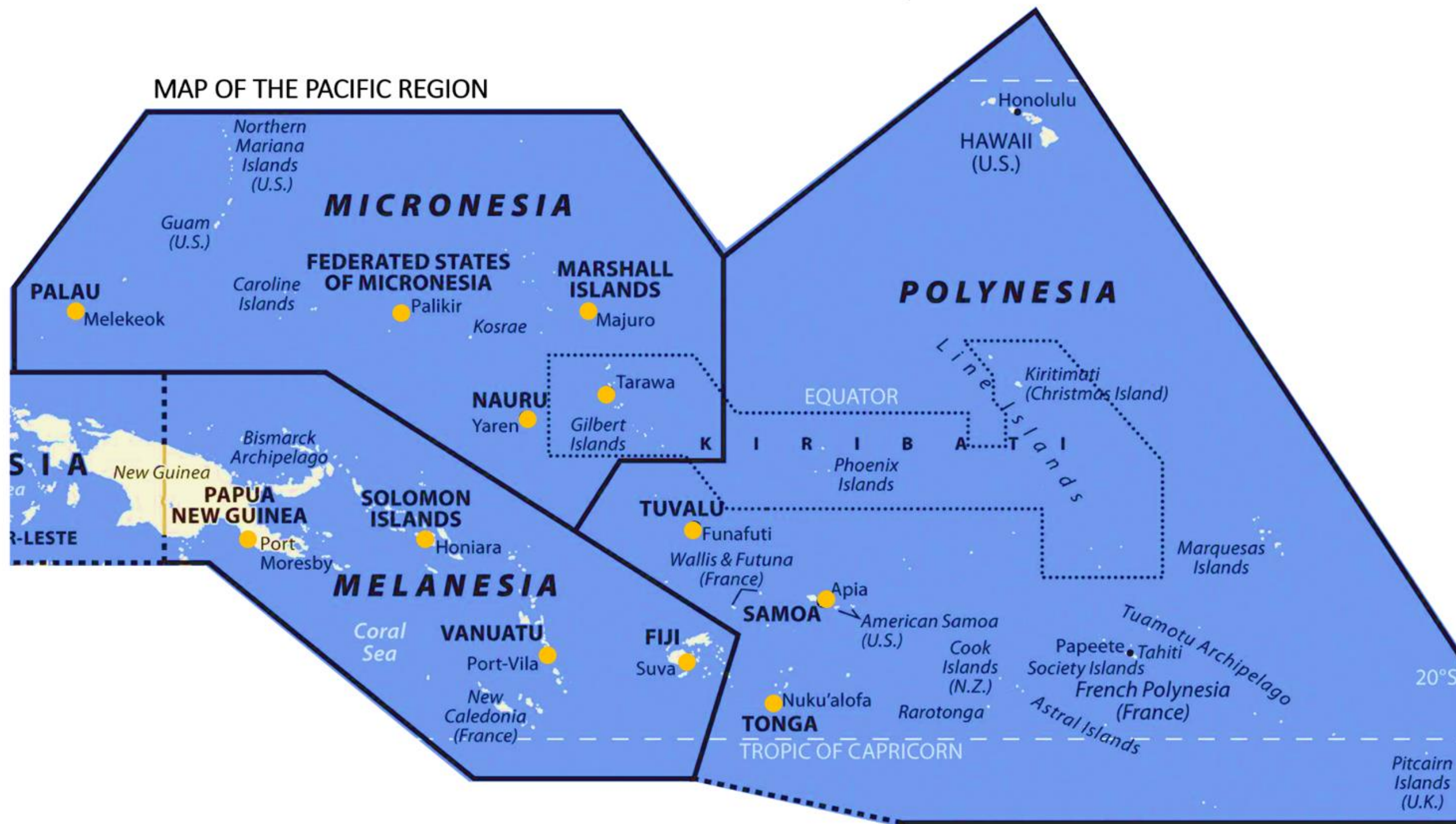
Nadi, Republic of Fiji



Map of the Pacific Region



MAP OF THE PACIFIC REGION



Pacific Region - Fiji



Delegate
HRC 41 (June -July 2019)
Capital

Kristy Fong

Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Kristy Fong joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May 2018 as a Foreign Service Officer of the Multilateral Bureau. She assists the Bureau through effective participation and representation of Fiji's foreign policy through the formulation of statements, policy briefs and information papers as well as through the provision of logistical and administrative support.

She has been responsible for all international elections since August 2018 providing recommendations for Fiji's voting position. She was also a member of the core team that campaigned, strategized and monitored the progress of Fiji's candidacy to the Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021.

Ms. Fong holds a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Business & Marketing from the University of the South Pacific and is currently completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Change.

Pacific Region - Fiji



Robyn-Ann Elizabeth Mani

Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to UNOG

Robyn-Ann Mani is a Foreign Service Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji and is presently posted to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations and other International Organisations at Geneva, Switzerland.

Ms. Mani is a lawyer by profession. Prior to her posting, she spent four and a half years at the Attorney-General's Office in Fiji, as a Legal Officer, Senior Legal Officer and Principal Legal Officer specialising in constitutional redress and judicial review cases, with a focus on human rights.

As the Second Secretary for the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, she is responsible for human rights, humanitarian and labour portfolios. Ms. Mani has been involved in Fiji's successful election, as the first Pacific Island State, to the Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021.

Pacific Region - Kiribati



Delegate
HRC 41 (June-July 2019)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Aretaake Ientaake

Director of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice

Currently Mr. Ientaake works as a Director of Human Rights within the Ministry of Justice in Kiribati. His responsibilities include the implementation of the UN conventions that the Government of Kiribati has ratified with the Human Rights Council which are CEDAW, CRC, CRPD; working with budgets and monitoring of Human Rights in Kiribati as well as conducting advocacy programs and formalizing policies with stakeholders.

Overseeing all propose enacted legislations to be align with fundamental human rights in the Country's Constitution. And finally designing of capacity building for human rights staff; tapping funding assistance to Kiribati and working with the Kiribati National Human Rights taskforce established by Cabinet.

His past employments include working as the Consumer Affairs officer within the Ministry of Commerce in 1991-2009; as a Deputy Clerk with the House of Parliament in 2009 -2013; as an Assistance Peoples' Lawyer within the Office of the People's Lawyer Office in 2013-2015; and as a Senior Assistant Secretary within the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in 2015-2017.

He is a graduate from the University of the South Pacific with BA/LLB/PDLP and awarded with certificate Master Business Administration (MBA).

Pacific Region - Kiribati



Moote Korina Anata

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education

Mr. Moote Korina Anata is an Arts graduate from the University of South Pacific. He also holds a Master of Business (Property) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. From 1998 until the present, he has worked through several positions at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development. He currently holds the position of Land Valuer.

Mr. Moote Korina Anata was also the Officer in Charge of the Land Information and Administration Department at the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development in 2014. He was then appointed to his current role of Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs and work currently as Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Education.

Delegate
HRC 32 Universal Session (June 2016)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Pacific Region - Marshall Islands



Delegate
HRC 32 Universal Session (June 2016)
New York
Without a Permanent Mission

H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua

Permanent Representative, New York

Ambassador Kabua was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations in New York in 2012.

After attending school in the Marshall Islands, Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua graduated from Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii. She became Mayor of the Majuro Atoll in 1986 then held several offices within the Foreign Service.

She was the Ambassador of the Marshall Islands to Japan between 1997 and 2003. She then held the position of Field Service Consultant to her country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2009 and served as Ambassador to Fiji from 2009 to 2012.



Pacific Region - Marshall Islands



Delegate
HRC 34 (February - March 2017)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Molly Helkena

National Advisor for Early Childhood Development,
Office of Chief Secretary

Ms. Moly M. Helkena was recently hired as RMI's National Advisor for Early Childhood development. Prior to joining the Office of Chief Secretary, she was an Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs for 8 years.

Several projects that were under her supervision and endorsed by the Government are, Human Rights Committee Act (2015), Gender Equality Bill (2019), CEDAW Legislative Review (2019), RMI Beijing +25 Report (2019) and RMI Human Rights Treaty Reports (UPR, CRC and CEDAW).

Pacific Region - Federated States of Micronesia



Delegate
HRC 32 (June 2016)
New York
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

H.E. Ms. Jane Chigiya

Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations in New York

Ambassador Jane J. Chigiya joined the the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1991. She served as the Deputy Secretary (Minister) of the Department of Foreign Affairs from December 2009 to August 2011. Since December 2011, she has served as Micronesia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Ambassador Chigiya was the FSM Government's Alternate Competent Authority to USAid, OFDA for Disaster Preparedness and Response. She was also the Chairperson of the FSM Government's Task Force on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). She is Advisor to the National Women's Advisory Council, a Member of the President's National Advisory Council on Children, Member of the FSM Climate Change Country Team and a Member of the National Panel on Biodiversity.

Ambassador Chigiya holds a degree in undergraduate studies from the U.S. and a degree in postgraduate studies from Australia.

Pacific Region - Federated States of Micronesia



Delegate
HRC 34 (February - March 2017)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Norleen Oliver

Gender Development Officer, Department of Health and Social Affairs

Ms. Norleen Oliver has been working as Gender Development Officer in the Department of Health and Social Affairs in Palikir since March 2016. She is responsible for the national coordination of the implantation activities of the national agenda on gender issues/policies with close collaboration with the four FSM States. In addition, she is responsible for securing financial and technical support from regional and international partners to support the nation's response to gender issues. She is also responsible for the CEDAW report and is also on the Human Rights Taskforce charged with all other Human Rights treaties that the FSM is a state party to and mandated to report on.

Prior to that, Ms. Oliver was the Program and Performance Improvement Manager for the National Public Health Improvement Initiative. She was a FSM resource/technical person for public health accreditation readiness and quality improvement trainings in the four FSM states. She was also the Systems Administrator and Registry Coordinator for the immunization program in the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. Prior to that a part time instructor at the National College of the FSM.

Ms. Oliver holds a Bachelor of Technical Management from DeVry University in USA, a Bachelor of Business Studies from Massey University in New Zealand and Masters in Public Health with concentration on Health Policy and Administration.

Pacific Region - Nauru



Delegate
HRC 41 (June - July 2019)
Capital

Christiana Detenamo

Deputy Secretary for International Affairs & Trade,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Detenamo is currently serving as the Director of International Affairs within the Department since January 2019. Her main role and responsibilities is dealing and attending to meetings that relates to Nauru's bilateral relations with Europe, Americas and the Caribbean regions as well as multilateral engagements and activities of Nauru with various international organizations including the United Nations, The European Union, The Commonwealth Secretariat, International Exhibitions Bureau and International Sea Authority.

The Department is the focal point of communication channel between Nauru and other countries including international organizations. Hence, Mrs. Detenamo work closely with relevant Departments and experts from various international organizations in the area of implementation and reporting of Nauru's obligation and activities on international treaties and conventions including human rights. Ms. Detenamo have been serving the Department since 2006 in various roles including as a Trade Officer, Assistant Director of Regional Affairs Division, Vice Consul at the Nauru Consulate General Office in Thailand and as a First Secretary of the Embassy of Nauru in Taiwan.

She graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Public Policy and International Relations from the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.



Pacific Region - Palau



Delegate
HRC 41 (June - July 2019)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Joann Resong Tarkong

Inter-Agency Coordinator on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs,
Ministry of State

Ms. Joann Resong Tarkong also known as “Risong” is the Inter-Agency Coordinator on Human Rights and Foreign Affairs in the Ministry of State of the National Government of the Republic of Palau. She has received several trainings and workshops on Human Rights on treaty bodies including on the Universal Periodic Report and related Human Rights processes and preparations. She was Secretary on Palau’s First UPR National Report Committee and was part of Palau’s delegation presentation of its UPR National Report in Geneva in May of 2011.

Her duty involves coordinating and collaborating reports on Human Rights treaty bodies and related works with various Ministries and Agencies of the National Government of Palau including working closely with the Attorney Generals Office and the public and private sector.

Ms. Tarkong graduated with a Bachelors Degree on “Law & Society” from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), California, USA.

Pacific Region - Papua New Guinea



Delegate
HRC 32 Universal Session June 2016
HRC 34 (February - March 2017)
New York
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Fred Sarufa

Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative, New York

Mr. Fred Sarufa is currently the Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations in New York since January 2015. Previously he served as Counsellor at the Papua New Guinea Permanent Mission to the United Nations from September 2012 to January 2015.

He was also the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations from August 2015 to May 2016.

Prior to his posting to New York, Mr. Sarufa was Director, Asia Branch, Political, Security and Treaties Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Papua New Guinea (2010-2012). He also served as Director, International Organizations Branch, Political, Security and Treaties Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Papua New Guinea (2007-2009). He also served as the First Secretary, Embassy of Papua New Guinea in Jakarta, Indonesia (1999-2006).

Mr. Sarufa holds a Masters Degree (International Relations) from the University of Wollongong (New South Wales, Australia) and a Bachelor of Arts (International Relations, Politics and Public Administration) from the University of Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Region - Papua New Guinea



Delegate
HRC 41 (June-July 2019)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Anna Konara Mokono

Foreign Service Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Mokono is a Foreign Service Officer of the International Organizations Branch in the Multilateral Development Cooperation Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs since 2015. She deals specifically with UN organizations in the field of Human Rights. Her responsibilities include liaising and coordinating all mandated State agencies in monitoring, reporting and implementation of all Human Rights treaties that Papua New Guinea has ratified. This includes submission of timely reports requested by the UN Treaty Bodies and Committees, facilitation of visits by Special Rapporteurs and providing guidance to the Department on various developments within the Human Rights space.

She is a member of the National Technical working Group on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRI) in Papua New Guinea and sits in various Committees such as the CEDAW Working Committee, the UPR Taskforce and the Committee on the establishment of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF).

Ms. Mokono holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Papua New Guinea Studies from the Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea and has attended several diplomatic trainings in Australia, New Zealand, and Chinese Taipei.



Pacific Region - Samoa



Delegate
HRC 40 (February - March 2019)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Marissa Toomata

Foreign Service Officer, International Relations Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Toomata is a Foreign Service Officer of the International Relations Division covering various human rights conventions such as CEDAW, UNCAC, and UNCAT. She is also responsible for Migration-related conventions, supports the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Ups (NMRF), and was part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Team for the Presentation of Samoa's 6th Periodic Report at the 71st Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination.

Prior to joining, Ms. Toomata volunteered at NGOs based in Ningxia, and Beijing, China, the former focused on rural and migrant children, and the latter in renewable energy and infrastructure.

Ms. Toomata holds a Master of Law in International Relations Degree from Peking University in Beijing, China; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations with a Minor in History from the Victoria University of Wellington, in New Zealand.



Pacific Region - Samoa



Delegate HRC 31 (February - March 2016)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Olive Justine Vaai

First Secretary, New York

Ms. Vaai is currently the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations in New York. She was previously a Senior Foreign Service Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Samoa where she was working in the Political, International Relations Division. She was actively involved in Samoa's first National Mechanism on Reporting and Follow Up (NMRF) as well as providing support for meeting reporting obligations for the human rights treaties. Through her participation at the 31st Session for the Human Rights Council, Ms. Vaai was able to assist with preparations and was part of Samoa's delegation for the Second Universal Periodic Review held in Geneva in May 2016. She preceded to take on the role of Advisor in New York to support the work of Samoa as the Chair of the Pacific Island Forum in New York in 2017.

Ms. Vaai works with the Mission to provide comprehensive policy advice and representation in key areas of multilateral cooperation such as international security and disarmament, international environment issues and human rights to name a few. Ms. Vaai also works with Second Committee (Economic and Financial matters) as well as Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues).

Ms. Vaai attended Victoria University in Wellington, where she graduated with Bachelor of Arts - double major in International Relations and Political Science. She was also the recipient of the Small States Fellowship which she pursued postgraduate diploma studies through the University of Malta.

Pacific Region - Samoa



Fellow 2017
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Elizabeth Kitty Tagi

Principal State Solicitor, Civil Division, Commercial and International Relations, Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Tagi is a Principal State Solicitor within the Commercial and International Law Division, of the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG"). She is responsible for providing principal level legal advice and representation to the clients of the OAG. In addition, she participates in negotiations relating to credit facilities, contract agreements, including international negotiations on behalf of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa ("GoS"). Her duties include providing quality legal opinions on and reviews or draft of international documents including conventions, treaties, protocols, bilateral and multilateral agreements. Further, Ms. Tagi provides supervision, training and mentoring of junior staff members of OAG and takes up the position of Acting Team Leader in the absence of the Assistant Attorney General. She provides legal advice for the Global Environmental Fund – United Nations Development Programme (GEF-UNDP) Project Committee, as well as the CEDAW and ICCPR Committee/Taskforce under the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. Prior to working at the OAG - Samoa, Ms. Tagi served as an intern in the Political Governance & Security Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. She assisted the International Legal Adviser in providing advice to forum members on good governance, electoral observance, human rights, security, conflict prevention and human security. In addition, she assisted the International Legal Adviser with reviews of bilateral and multilateral agreements between forum members, providing analytical review and analysis of proposed international agreements as well as research on governance and security issues within the forum island member countries. Ms. Tagi holds a Bachelor of Law, a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Politics as well as Professional Diplomas in Legal Practice and Legislative Drafting from the University of the South Pacific.

Pacific Region - Solomon Islands



Fellow 2015
Capital

Jolina Tausinga

Chief Desk Officer for United Nations and Americas Branch within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Jolina Tausinga is the Chief Desk Officer for United Nations and Americas Branch within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade for the Solomon Islands Government, where she has been employed for the past six years.

Ms. Tausinga has experience in policy development and State reports with issues pertaining to Human Rights (HR). Her experience in HR issues and the complexities surrounding HR has allowed her to work closely with relevant ministries in tackling the challenges in providing awareness and guidance on SI commitment on International HR Conventions. She has also been involved in developing a Solomon Islands National Human Rights National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NRMF) for Human Rights Treaties.

Since 2017 she has participated in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and is currently a 2019 Climate Change Fellow for the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) in New York at the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations.

Jolina holds a Bachelor of Arts (Asian and International Studies, International Relations) from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Pacific Region - Tonga



Delegate
The 100th Beneficiary Delegate of the Trust Fund
HRC 38 (June 2018)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Elsie Pakiamala Fukofuka

Pacific Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Elsie Fukofuka is in charge of the Pacific Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tonga and has carried various senior policy and advisory roles throughout her career in the foreign service.

She is currently responsible for advancing Tonga's policy objectives in political and security relationships with Pacific countries including Australia and New Zealand. Her role includes providing policy advice and support on a range of foreign and security policy issues, with a focus on the Pacific. This extends to leading the Ministry's development and policy engagement with regional organisations including the Pacific Islands Forum and CROP agencies.

She has led national efforts towards several of Tonga's international engagement obligations including the First Review of Tonga's Trade Policy as a member of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva, international treaties and has coordinated national efforts towards negotiating Tonga's Free Trade Agreements.

Elsie has served over 10 years in Tonga's Foreign Ministry.

Pacific Region - Tonga



Delegate
HRC 34 (February -March 2017)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Polotu Fakafanua Paunga **(Akanesi Feangatapu Paunga)**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Head of Women's Affairs Division
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ms. Polotu Fakafanua - Paunga (Akanesi Feangatapu Paunga) has been Deputy CEO & Head of Women's Affairs Division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs since July 2012, focusing on gender and social inclusion. She has also been responsible for the review of budgets and accounts at national and local levels for the Division. From 2014 to 2016 she served as a freelance consultant to the UNDP and the government of Tonga to develop an analysis report on youth engagement.

Prior to that, she served as Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Director and Head of Women's Department in the Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture, providing advice on strategic policies on gender issues and budget allocation. She has been the Supervisor for the project to develop legislation protecting women and has helped to build strategic partnerships with line Ministries, the private sector, NGOs and other partners. She also served in the Prime Minister's Office as the Focal Point for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the development of the first national MDG report.

Ms. Paunga holds a Bachelor's in English and a Master's degree from Auckland University in New Zealand.

Pacific Region - Tonga



Delegate
HRC 32 Universal session (June 2016)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Akanesi' Emeline Katoa

Senior Crown Counsel, Attorney General's Office

Ms. Akanesi' Emeline Katoa went to school in Nuku'alofa, Tonga and then went on to attend the University of the South Pacific where she obtained a Bachelors of Law (2010), a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (2011), a Professional Diploma in Legal Drafting (2012) and finally, a Masters of Law (2015).

While doing her university studies, she undertook several internships, including at the Pacific Island Legal Information Institute and the Community Legal Centre, both in Port Vila, Vanuatu and at the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team in Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Katoa has also lectured in law on a part-time basis at the Tonga Institute of Higher Education between 2011 and 2014 and worked as a Law Clerk for the Crown Law Department of Tonga in January 2010 and between January and June 2011.

In 2012, she was appointed to her current post of Assistant Crown Counsel in the Tongan Attorney General's Office.

Pacific Region - Tuvalu



Delegate
HRC 39 (September 2018)
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Losaline Teo

Crown Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Teo is currently employed at the Office of the Attorney General of Tuvalu as a Crown Counsel.

Ms. Teo is responsible for providing legal advices to all Government line ministries and Cabinet Ministers. She is also a Crown Prosecutor for the State for criminal cases before the Senior Magistrate Court, High Court and Court of Appeal.

Since joining the Office of the Attorney General, Ms. Teo mainly work on Youth issues especially assisting the Youth Department with the implementation of the National Youth Policy. She also assists her Senior Crown Counsels with consultation on International Convention that Tuvalu has ratified as well as drafting State Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the moment, Ms. Teo is part of the Tuvalu Constitutional Review Committee working on reviewing the Constitution of Tuvalu 1986. This review commenced in 2015 and will be completing in 2019.

Pacific Region - Tuvalu



Fellow 2014
Capital
Without a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Efren Jogia

Senior Crown Counsel

Recalling the visit of the Special Rapporteur on safe drinking water and sanitation to Tuvalu in July 2012, a time when he was still in university, Efren recalls how that visit made a “lasting impression” on him. It was his introduction to the Council’s Special Procedures system - the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. “The Rapporteur’s visit really helped to sharpen the focus on this problem in a small island State like Tuvalu.” Both he and Ricardo agreed that their experience in Geneva provided them with a greater understanding about Special Procedures, in particular the wide range of issues they cover.

Speaking about the Council’s Universal Periodic Review, a system through which all UN member States are subjected to a human rights review every four years, Ricardo and Efren, both of whom have been charged with following up to their countries’ reviews, noted the great potential this process has on achieving “real results”. Yet they warned that recommendations need to be realistic and implementable. “A peer to peer review would work best when States really understand what other States are struggling with and what their challenges are,” Efren remarked.

Pacific Region - Vanuatu



Delegate
HRC 41 (June - July 2019)
Capital

Angelyne Dovo

Parliamentary Counsel, State Law Office

Ms. Dovo is the Parliamentary Counsel of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu at the State Law Office. She is in charge of the drafting of all Government Legislation to Parliament and works with a team of other legislative drafters.

Ms. Dovo is also the Chairlady of the Vanuatu National Human Rights Committee. She was part of the Vanuatu Delegation for the Presentation of Vanuatu's 3rd UPR Report in January 2019 before the UN UPR Committee.

Ms. Dovo holds a Law Degree from the Law School of the University of the South Pacific in Port Vila Vanuatu and a Diploma in Legislative Drafting from the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.

Caribbean Region - Permanent Observer Mission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



HRC 32 Universal Session (June 2016)
New York

H.E. Ms. Missouri Sherman Peter

Permanent Observer of CARICOM, New York

H.E. Ms. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter has served as Permanent Observer of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations since November 2014. Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Sherman-Peter, a Bahamian national, served as Adviser to the Minister of National Security and as Establishment and First Chair of The Bahamas Inter-Ministry Committee on Trafficking in Persons 2011-2013. Ambassador Sherman-Peter participated on behalf of CARICOM, through the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the first Universal Session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016, on the occasion of the HRC's 10th Anniversary. In addition to the many posts Ambassador Sherman-Peter held in various Bahamas Government Ministries and Offices, she also represented her country in 2012 at the Bahamas-United States Partnership Dialogue and the Third Meeting of National Coordinators on Trafficking in Persons of the Organization of American States, and in other bilateral, regional and multilateral organizations and mechanisms. She concurrently served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Special Envoy and Chef de Cabinet to the President of the Fifty-Eighth United Nations General Assembly between 2003 and 2004, having previously served her country at the United Nations for nineteen years, including as Deputy Permanent Representative from 1988 to 1994. She also represented her country as High Commissioner to Canada between 1997 and 2000 and as Non-Resident High Commissioner (Ambassador) to Zimbabwe commencing 1999. From 1994 to 1997, Ambassador Sherman-Peter was Assistant Director in the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, United Kingdom, and also served in various capacities in a broad range of regional and international meetings at levels including Heads of Government. She also served as Representative of the Bahamas on the United Nations bodies including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 1982 to 1994, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, as Chair of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and on various United Nations Expert Groups. She was Head and Consul General of the Bahamas Consulate General in New York from 1977 to 1988.

Ambassador Sherman-Peter holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs (International Law and Organization) from the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University in New York, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts in History (Special Honours) from the University of the West Indies.

Caribbean Region - Barbados



Fellow 2014

Ricardo Kellman

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Barbados to UNOG

Ricardo Kellman is currently stationed at the Permanent Mission of Barbados in Geneva and has been a member of Barbados' Foreign Service for nearly two decades.

From this position, and as a member of Barbados' National Human Rights Coordinating Committee, Mr. Kellman, works to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights at home.

His focus includes fostering effective institutions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights; improving Barbados' engagement in the United Nation's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and the United Nations Treaty Body system.

Mr. Kellman possesses postgraduate degrees in Diplomatic History, International Commerce, International Relations and Public Policy.

Prior to the Foreign Service, he was employed as an Information Officer with the Government Information Service, before which he was a journalist working in the print and broadcast media in Barbados.

African Region - Seychelles



Delegate
HRC 35 (June 2017)
Capital

Gayethri Murugaiyan

Chargée d'Affaires, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Seychelles to UNOG

Ms. Gayethri Murugaiyan Pillay is the Chargée d'Affaires and Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Seychelles to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva.

Prior to her posting to Geneva, Ms. Pillay was the Director for the International Law and Human Rights at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Seychelles. Ms. Pillay was also the coordinator of the Seychelles Human Rights Treaty Committee established to oversee the implementation of Seychelles' international human rights obligations with a specific focus on reporting. In this role, Ms. Pillay coordinated Seychelles' engagement under the second cycle of the UPR mechanism, and formed part of Seychelles' delegation for the UPR sessions in the Human Rights Council in January and June 2016. She has also participated in the Treaty Body sessions under the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers & their families, the Convention against Torture, and most recently the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against women.

Ms. Pillay holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws in International Public Law and Human Rights Law.



Office of the President of the Human Rights Council



H.E. Mr. Coly Seck

President of the Human Rights Council Thirteen Cycle (2019)
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to UNOG

H. E Mr. Coly Seck has chaired the Thirteenth Cycle of the Human Rights Council since January 2019. He is the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Office in Geneva since October 2016. He has chaired the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body Special Session (DSB/SS) since March 2017 and of the Francophone Ambassadors Group (GAF) since November 2016.

Prior to his appointment in Geneva, Mr. Seck held the position of Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad from November 2012 to October 2016. Mr. Seck was Minister Counselor, Director of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from February to October 2012. He was also Minister Counselor, Director Africa Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from January 2011 to January 2012. Prior to that, Mr. Seck was Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations in New York from November 2004 to December 2010 where he was in charge of political affairs, disarmament, peace and international security.

Between October 2001 and October 2004, Mr. Seck held the positions of Head of Africa Division and Africa-Asia Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs respectively. Mr. Seck has also been an instructor at the National School of Administration of Senegal from which he graduated summa cum laude (Diplomacy section) in September 2001. He speaks French and English.



Office of the President of the Human Rights Council



Fatou Gaye

Special Advisor to the President of the HRC during its 13th cycle (2019), Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Senegal to UNOG

Ms. Fatou Gaye is the Special Advisor of the President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Mr. Coly SECK. In this capacity, she advises the President on all issues regarding the Council's work. She also serves as the primary liaison with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She leads the support team at the Office of the President and she develops new initiatives to improve the Council's work and the Bureau's organizational efficiency. In addition to her duties as the President's Special Advisor, Fatou also handles her normal duties as Minister-Counselor in the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the UN Office in Geneva where she is the Chargée d'Affaires of the Ambassador. She is responsible for advising the Ambassador on all subjects related to the work of the Mission with a special focus on political issues. She provides support to the Ambassador on the financial and human resources management of the Mission. Prior to that, she worked as a First Counsellor and legal expert at the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the UN Office in New York. She was an expert on terrorism, advised on matters pertaining to Peace and Security in West Africa and was the facilitator and lead negotiator for Security Council outcomes (Resolution, Presidential statement, press statement related to West Africa). She was the Senegal expert in charge of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Under her tenure, Mr. Sidiki KABA, current Minister of Armed Forces who was, at the time, the Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, was elected as the first African President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. She coordinated the Senegalese candidature as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the January 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2017 period for which Senegal got the best score with 187 votes out of 191 member States present and voting. She has held several other positions in Senegal embassies abroad and within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Fatou Gaye holds a Bachelor in International Law, a Master in Political Sciences and a Post-graduate degree in Diplomacy.



Bureau of the Human Rights Council (2019)



H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan

Vice-President of the Human Rights Council
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to UNOG

Nazhat Shameem Khan went to university in the United Kingdom, at Sussex University and Cambridge University, where she studied law. She was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales at the Inner Temple in London in 1983, and to the High Court in Fiji as a barrister and solicitor in 1984.

She holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Criminology from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Ms. Khan worked for 16 years as a prosecutor in Fiji, and during that time was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji in 1994. In 1999, she was appointed Fiji's first woman High Court judge. She was a judge mainly in the criminal division of the High Court and delivered a number of cases on human rights law in the criminal courts. She is currently a Vice President of the Human Rights Council, and is especially active in promoting the human rights in the context of climate change, the integration of the SDG's and human rights, and the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.

She is a strong advocate of the usefulness of the SIDS/LDCs Trust Fund to ensuring the accessibility of the Human Rights Council to all UN member States, and especially to small island developing states in the Pacific.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva



Eric Tistounet

Chief, Human Rights Council Branch

Eric Tistounet is currently Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since joining the United Nations in 1987, Mr. Tistounet served inter alia as secretary of various treaty bodies, external relations officer, Chief of Cabinet of the High Commissioner and Secretary of the Commission on Human Rights.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva



Fatou Camara Houel

Coordinator, Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the Work of the HCR

Ms. Fatou Camara Houel is the Coordinator of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council since May 2015. Ms. Camara Houel is also the Secretary of the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and Coordinator of the Cooperation agreement between the Organisation Internationale La Francophonie and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights since 2009.

Over the past twenty years, Ms. Fatou Camara Houel has been working for the United Nations in the fields of human rights, political affairs, peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs. She served at Headquarters in both New York and Geneva, as well as in Haiti, Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In New York, she was the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and Security Council Affairs.

In Geneva, Ms. Camara Houel was Special Assistant to the Director of the Human Rights Council (from April 2009 to November 2016). She also assisted several HRC Special Procedures.

Ms. Camara Houel is graduated from Sciences Po (Paris) and holds Master and Postgraduate degrees in Human Rights and Economics (Paris, and Lyon, France).



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific



Chitrlekha Massey

Regional Representative, Regional Office for the Pacific

Ms. Chitrlekha Massey was appointed as Regional Representative for the Pacific in 2016. Prior to her current role, she performed duties as Senior Human Rights Advisor in Tanzania, Head of the Human Rights Office in Erbil Iraq, Deputy Director OHCHR at UNAMI, Head of the Capacity-Building, Training and Best Practices/Discrimination and Economic, Social, Cultural Rights at OHCHR Nepal.

In addition, she conducted special investigative missions to West Africa regarding allegations of sexual abuse by UN staff. Ms. Massey has worked extensively on a range of human rights issues, including street children, business and human rights, countering torture, eliminating discrimination, strengthening national institutions' ability to uphold human rights and establishing national human rights commissions.

Further, she continues to work closely with academic institutions as well as civil society and non-governmental organisations.

She holds a PhD in International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific



Thomas Hunecke

Deputy Regional Representative, Regional Office for the Pacific

Mr. Thomas Hunecke joined the team in 2019 as the Deputy Regional Representative. At the Regional Office he coordinates the work on the rule of law. He held several positions at OHCHR Geneva Headquarters, including the Deputy Chief of the Asia-Pacific Section, Cluster Lead for South Asia, Special Assistant to various Division Directors as well as in the National Institutions, Rule of Law and Democracy, and Economic, Cultural and Social Rights Sections.

He has also worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa and Latin America as well as the Organisation for Security and Co-ordination in the Balkans. Further, he has performed duties as Senior Policy Advisor/Coordinator of the Bill of Rights Vetting team for the New Zealand Ministry of Justice as well as Inspector under the Crimes of Torture Act at the Office of the New Zealand Ombudsman.

Mr. Hunecke was instrumental in coordinating OHCHR's efforts in relation to the peace process in Sri Lanka, and investigating serious human rights violations in Cox Bazar/ Bangladesh, the Central African Republic and Mali. He holds a Masters of Law.



Commonwealth



Sumedha Ekanayake

Human Rights Advisor, Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat

Mr. Sumedha Ekanayake plays a key role in delivering the mandate of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit to support Commonwealth small states to enhance their effective participation in the Geneva-based international human rights mechanisms. This includes providing technical assistance and developing capacities of member states to participate effectively in the UPR mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council and to fulfil their international human rights treaty obligations. His work also involves further strengthening of Commonwealth Secretariat's partnerships in Geneva, including with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Before moving to London as Human Rights Adviser, Mr. Ekanayake also served as a human rights technical expert based at the Commonwealth Small States Office (CSSO) in Geneva during the period: 2013–2015 and provided technical assistance to small states, which were anchored at the CSSO as well as those states, which did not have a permanent presence in Geneva. Mr. Ekanayake joined the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2013 having served in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service for over twelve years with two senior diplomatic assignments at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva. Other assignments included Deputy Director at the United Nations and Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the primary focus on human rights. In those capacities, he represented Sri Lanka at numerous multilateral forums, including the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council. He also served as an expert assistant to the Vice President as well as the Coordinator of the Asian Group of the Human Rights Council, and advised Sri Lanka's delegation to the UPR during its first cycle. He has also provided human rights technical expertise to Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission in the drafting of its final report. Mr. Ekanayake has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations, Political Science and History from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of the Tufts University in Boston, USA.

Forum of Small States (FOSS)



Keefe Chin

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore, Geneva

Mr. Keefe Chin is the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations at Geneva since 2018. He follows developments concerning human rights, health, disarmament, humanitarian, environment and development.

Prior to his current posting Mr Chin held appointments in the Southeast Asia I Directorate and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

Mr. Chin holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Communications and New Media from the National University of Singapore and a Diploma (Merit) in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore.





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