

Mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Regional consultation on the practical implementation of the right to development: Identifying and Promoting good practices,

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Speakers

Maria Mercedes Rossi is the main representative and contact person of the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) - a NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, at the United Nations in Geneva and New York. She holds a degree in Medicine (MD) and a Specialty in Infectious Diseases obtained at the University of Bologna (Italy), a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in London (UK) and a Master in Public Health from the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp (Belgium). She worked as a missionary doctor under the Catholic Diocese of Ndola in Zambia for 20 years. From 1994 to 2002, she coordinated the integrated AIDS Programme (Home Based Programme) of the Catholic Diocese of Ndola. Ms. Rossi also served as Medical Advisor for the Red Cross at the Ndola branch in Zambia for 2 years. In Zambia, she has been co-founder and chairperson of LARC (Link Association for Relief of Children), the provincial network of NGOs/CBOs for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Her research and consultancy has focused mainly on HIV/AIDS. In 2018, Dr. Rossi successfully completed the Interactive E-Learning Module on Operationalizing the Right to Development in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, organized by OHCHR, the University for Peace and UNU-IIGH.

Maria Virgínia Brás Gomes is the present Chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (formerly Vice-Chair and Rapporteur). She was co-rapporteur for the Committee's General Comments n° 19, on the right to social security, and n° 23, on the right to just and favourable conditions of work. She is a senior social policy adviser in the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal. She is also a member of the International Board of PWESCR (Programme for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights); of the Board of the Portuguese UNICEF Committee; and of the National Committee for Human Rights. She was a faculty member of the Nottingham University Human Rights Law Centre Summer School (2008); of the UNDP Global Human Rights Community of Practice Meeting (2009); of the Leadership Institute in Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2011 to 2015) and an invited expert at the Australian National University (2015). She has authored various publications; participated in a number of international conferences on economic, social and cultural rights, social security, and social development; and conducted training in treaty body reporting on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Africa and Asia.

Jim Fitzgerald is Co-Director of the Equal Rights Trust, an independent international organization which works to eliminate discrimination and ensure that everyone can participate in society on an equal basis. The Trust works in partnership to secure the adoption and implementation of equality laws. Over the last decade, the organization has worked to support equality defenders in more than 40 different countries, alongside work to develop knowledge

and understanding of the rights to equality and non-discrimination, and the role of equality law in rights and development. Prior to his appointment as Co-Director in 2016, Jim was the Trust's Head of Advocacy, developing the Trust's advocacy programme and its work in supporting equality movements worldwide. In this role, he established partnerships with civil society organisations in dozens of countries, providing technical and strategic support to advocacy for legislative and policy reforms on equality. In addition, Jim is one of the Trust's expert trainers in equality law, with a particular focus on training civil society actors on how to develop and advocate for the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws. He also helped to develop the Equal Rights Trust Country Report series, authoring or editing many of the reports in the series, and led the development of the Trust's approach to equality law and sustainable development. Jim has a background in political advocacy and communications. Jim holds a 1st Class LLB (Bachelor of Laws) from the University of Sheffield.

Laura-Maria Craciunean -Tatu is an Associate Professor PhD at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Romania, Faculty of Law, where she teaches courses on Public International Law International Humanitarian Law and Diplomatic Law. Her research interests are related to economic, social and cultural rights, cultural diversity and human rights, and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. She served as an independent expert in the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (2014-2016). She is a member of the European Society of International Law (since 2007) and currently serves as independent expert in the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on National Minorities.

Vicente Paolo B. Yu III is currently the Deputy Executive Director of the South Centre, the intergovernmental policy research institution of developing countries. His substantive policy work includes overseeing the policy research and analysis and the provision of technical and legal advice by the South Centre to developing country governments, including on the right to development, international trade policy, international environmental law, development economics, international climate change policy, and South-South cooperation. He obtained his political science (with honors) and law degrees from the University of the Philippines, and his master of laws degree (with honors, specializing in international trade law and international environmental law) from Georgetown University where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Prior to joining the South Centre, he worked for Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and was a Staff Attorney and head for Research and Policy Development of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) in the Philippines. He has taught law at the University of the Philippines. He has published papers and articles on issues relating to trade and environment, energy policy, mining policy, sustainable development, environmental policy, climate change policy, South-South cooperation, and indigenous peoples' rights.

Nicolas Fasel works at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as adviser on human rights measurement. He coordinates the programme of OHCHR on human rights indicators/statistics which led to the publications Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, and more recently to the Human Rights-Based Approach to Data. He participates in the fora of the international statistical community concerning the development of the SDG indicator framework. With his team, he provides technical assistance on the development and use of human rights indicators, data collection and disaggregation at the request of national and international stakeholders.

Ms. Mariami Kvaratskhelia is LGBTQI community member and activist in the republic of Georgia. Mariam holds the positions of an advocacy officer and a project manager at Equality Movement – LGBTQI community organization in Georgia. Mariam is involved in the implementation of the program 'Right to Health' which aims at identifying gaps/drawbacks in healthcare services/policies regarding HIV/AIDs (for MSM/Trans* people) and advocating

improvements through the discussions and legal proceedings with the key stakeholders in the country. Besides, Mariam has been documenting and reporting human rights violations of LGBTQI persons, issuing relevant recommendations on behalf of Equality Movement. She is also involved in writing monitoring/shadow reports for UN human rights protection mechanisms.

Susan Mathews is a human rights officer at OHCHR and has worked in different capacities, including as the Secretary of the Working Group on the Right to Development and Secretary of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Her present portfolios include trade and investment and in that regard her work covers exploring how human rights impact assessments (HRIA) can be applied in these areas.

Isabelle Tschan is currently Human Rights and Rule of Law Advisor at the UNDP Regional Hub Istanbul for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Since 2009, she has been working for UNDP in various regions, providing technical support and policy advice on human rights, rule of law, justice and security. Prior to that, Isabelle served as Assistant to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Human Rights Officer for the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and as Regional Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa with the Swiss Federal Office for Migration. Isabelle Tschan holds Master's degrees in Human Rights and Democratization (E.M.A, Venice, Italy and Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund, Sweden) and in International Relations (Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva, Switzerland).

Christine Verschuur is an anthropologist and Senior Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. She holds a PhD in Socio-economics of Development from the University of Paris I - Panthéon-Sorbonne (1983) and has been associated with faculty of the Graduate Institute Geneva since 1996, where she has contributed to mainstream gender in research, teaching, and outreach activities, and to increasing gender equality at the institution. She is currently the head of the Gender and Development Programme at the Gender Centre of the Graduate Institute. She is also the Director of *Les Cahiers Genre et Développement*, published by L'Harmattan-Paris since 2000. She has authored various publications and her research interests include gender and development; solidarity and feminist economy; gender experts and gender expertise; gender, urban social organisations and environment; gender, rural development and peasant organisations; gender and migration.

Milan Antonijevic is an active promoter of human rights in Serbia and the Western Balkans. Since 2010, he is the director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM. He is also a member of the Council of the Government of Serbia for Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendations of the Human Rights Mechanism of the UN, a member of the Council for Monitoring the Realization of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Preventing Discrimination, and a founder/board member of the Human Rights House in Serbia. In the past, he worked on drafting a set of laws on the educational system within the Ministry of Education (adopted in 2009) and the Law on Social Welfare (adopted in 2010). He also worked as a consultant for an Impunity Watch project conducted in Serbia and Guatemala (2007 to 2009), the OSCE (2008 – present), and the World Bank (2014). He was a member of the Bar Association of Serbia (2006 – 2010) and the Serbian candidate for member of the Committee Against Torture (2017). At YUCOM, he wrote segments of shadow reports to UN bodies, the OSCE and the Council of Europe and he also coordinates the National Convention of the EU for Chapter 23 within the EU negotiations of Serbia. He holds lectures and trainings at the Judicial Academy and he is a writer and co-author of various publications on human and minority rights, access to justice, free legal aid, discrimination, independent institutions, hate speech, and hate crime.

Irina Zubcevic is the Chief of the Intergovernmental Policy and Research Branch in the Office of the Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Office provides substantive support to the work of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in the area of sustainable development