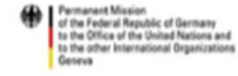




UK Mission
Geneva



Australian Government



BREAKING THE CHAINS **Eradicating Slavery through SDGs**

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Organized by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

*28 November, 2019, 11:30 am – 13:00 pm,
Salle XXI, Palais des Nations*



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Panelists

Michelle Bachelet Jeria (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) – Keynote speech



H.C. Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 2018. Ms. Bachelet was previously elected President of Chile on two occasions (2006 – 2010 and 2014 – 2018). She was the first female president of Chile. She served as Health Minister (2000-2002), as well as Chile’s and Latin America’s first female Defense Minister (2002 – 2004). During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. Since the early 1990s, Ms. Bachelet has worked closely with many international organizations. Among other achievements, in 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women. Michelle Bachelet has a Medical Degree in Surgery, with a specialization in Pediatrics and Public Health.

Elizabeth Wilde (Ambassador, Australia Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva) – Moderator



H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Wilde is a senior officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Ms. Wilde was most recently the Assistant Secretary to the Human Rights Branch. Prior to that she held a range of positions in DFAT including Assistant Secretary to the Pacific Regional and Pacific Bilateral Branches. Before joining DFAT, Ms. Wilde held other senior positions in the Australian Government including in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and leading a 2011–12 taskforce on Constitutional reform.

Helmer Leonel Velásquez Herrera (Guatemala)



Mr. Herrera is the lead lawyer and representative of the Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (CONDEG), an organization providing legal and social assistance to indigenous Mayan Q’eqchi victims of forced labour in the palm oil industry in Guatemala and receiving financial support from the UN Slavery Trust Fund. Mr. Herrera is a qualified lawyer and notary public and has vast expertise counselling indigenous Guatemalan organizations regarding land rights and natural resources. He is also the Director of the CONGCOOP Cooperative in Guatemala and a board member of FORUS.

Salimata Lam (Mauritania)



Ms. Lam is a human rights activist. From a young age, she has been fighting injustice and discrimination in her country, Mauritania. She joined the Mauritanian national democratic movement where she worked on issues around gender equality and the empowerment of women. She was a victim of the ‘passif humanitaire’, in the late 1980s, in which black Mauritians were expelled to Senegal and Mali. She was able to return to Mauritania in 2002, where joined SOS Esclaves, one of the UN Slavery Fund grantees. She has been working for the organization ever since, focusing on the eradication of slavery and the emancipation of former slaves. She advocates for their rights before regional and international bodies, supporting the legal cases against slave masters and working closely with survivors to provide socio-economic support and rehabilitation.

Diep N. Vuong (Vietnam)



Ms. Vuong is the president and co-founder of the Pacific Links Foundation, one of the UN Slavery Fund's grantees. The Foundation is one of the leading NGOs working to prevent the trafficking of vulnerable Vietnamese women and youth. Ms Vuong designed and spearheaded the Girls Empowerment Mekong Scholarships (GEMS) Program, a trafficking prevention program that provides scholarships and growth opportunities to at-risk girls in the Mekong Delta; and Factory Awareness to Counter-Trafficking (FACT), a supply chain training programme that helps multinationals comply with international law and reduce the incidence of trafficked workers in industrial zones. She also created Pacific Links Foundation's Compassion House reintegration programme along the northern and southern borders of Vietnam. Ms Vuong is a cum laude graduate of Harvard University and San Jose State University.

Descartes Mponge Malasi (Democratic Republic of Congo)



Mr. Descartes is a jurist with the organization Action des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda (ACADHOSHA). With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, ACADHOSHA provides legal support to children working in the artisanal mining industry in the territories of Mwenga and Shabunda in the South Kivu province.

While working at the organization known as Civil Society of South Kivu (2012-2016) and the Resources Network of the DRC (2010-2012), Mr. Descartes successfully led advocacy efforts on the participation of civil society and women's organizations in the regional and international forums on peace, security, reconciliation and good cooperation in the Great Lakes region. He has also worked as a National Human Rights Expert with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in DRC.

Hoshyar Malo (Iraq)



Mr. Malo is a lawyer and Executive Director of Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (KHRW), current grantee of the UN Slavery Fund. KHRW provides direct assistance to migrant worker victims of labour exploitation in a region with a high influx of foreign labourers. Mr. Malo is based in Erbil, Iraq and has extensive experience on leadership projects, defending human rights and freedom, having worked for more

than 15 years on law reform processes in Iraq. He is the author of several research papers and studies published in Iraq and abroad. Mr. Malo is currently also heading an NGO coalition (Coalition of Freedom- COF) that includes some 70 Iraqi NGOs.