

► Panellists BIOs

How employment and decent work can contribute to peace and social cohesion in time of COVID-19 crisis



► Mr Guy Ryder

The Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2012. He first joined the ILO in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities and, from 1999, as Director of the Office of the Director-General. In 2002, he was appointed General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). He was elected as first General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) when it was created in 2006. In September 2010, Guy Ryder came back to the ILO as Executive Director. Born in Liverpool (UK) in 1956, Guy Ryder studied Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool.



► Mr Oscar Fernández-Taranco

He has been Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support since November 2014. In this capacity, he heads the Peacebuilding Support Office, charged with enhancing system-wide coherence in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and partnerships with United Nations and non-UN stakeholders, oversees support to the Peacebuilding Commission, and manages the Peacebuilding Fund on behalf of the Secretary-General. Mr Fernández-Taranco is a graduate of Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



► H.E. Mr Félix Baumann

The Deputy Permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and the other international organisations in Geneva and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament. Until summer 2019, he was Consul general of Switzerland in Milan. He joined the diplomatic service in 2001 and was subsequently posted at the Centre for International Security Policy of the FDFA in Bern dealing with European and transatlantic security issues, at the Embassy of Switzerland in Moscow and as chief of staff at the Directorate for Resources of the FDFA responsible for the strategic management of the network of Swiss diplomatic representations abroad. He graduated from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and the International Economics and Management from Bocconi University in Milan.



► Ms Renée Larivière

The Senior Director of Programmes at Interpeace where she provides leadership of the organization's peacebuilding work worldwide. Operating in the complex environments she has extensive experience in working closely with stakeholders that have an interest in building sustainable peace. Her experience in more than 30 countries includes a focus on people's engagement with violence, conflict management and promoting conflict transformative approaches. She has worked Peru as a Visiting Professor at the Post Graduate School of La Molina University and worked for the Canadian International Development Agency.



► H.E. Mr Maman Sambo Sidikou

The head of the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat since 2018. Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Sidikou served as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) from 2015 to 2018. From 2014 to 2015, Mr Sidikou served as Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Mr Sidikou, a Nigerian national, has more than 25 years of experience in his country's national and foreign services, as well as with international organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union. Mr Sidikou studied political science in Madrid and holds a doctorate in education from Florida State University.



► Ms Muferihat Kamil

Her Excellency Ms Muferihat Kamil Ahmed is currently the Minister of Peace of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Prior to her current appointment, Ms Muferihat Kamil Ahmed was the Speaker of the House of People's Representatives, being the first female to hold the position in 2018. She also served as the Chairwoman of the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (SEPDM). In 2008, she was appointed as Minister of Women's Affairs at the age of 28, the youngest appointee at the time. She also served as Public Relations Advisor to the President of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) in 2007.

HE the Minister holds a Master of Arts degree in Transformational Leadership from University of Greenwich, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Haromaya University.



► Ms Jenan Mubarak

An Iraqi women, human right activist and peacemaker. She is the chairwomen of (ICWRE) Iraqi centre for women rehabilitation & Employment centre, which advocates for women rights, the role of women in building peace, and support economic initiatives to empower and employ women. Ms Mubarak is the founder for economic initiatives (CCTE), member of the international peace youth group (IPYG), Founder of economic initiatives for Iraqi businesses.



► Ms Elvia Mejía Fernandez

She is the current Manager of the Territorial Development Program (PDET in Spanish) for the Sierra Nevada and Perijá sub-region in Colombia, expert in Urban and Regional Planning, she was National Director of the Superior School of Public Administration (ESAP) in the period 2013-2014, she was General Vice-Controller of the Nation (2002 - 2004) and superintendent of Solidarity Economy (2001).



► Mr Omar Faruk Osman

A Somali journalist and trade unionist who is the General Secretary of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU). As the head of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), he is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Union Federation - the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). He has been an authoritative and strong voice that defends workers' rights, freedom of association, freedom of expression and the occupational safety of workers.



► Ms Lindiwe Sephomolo

The Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Lesotho Employers and Business. She is an advocate of the Courts of Lesotho, a specialist in labour law, a seasoned negotiator and policy specialist with over 25 years post legal qualification. She is a fierce defender of social dialogue and tripartism. In 2017 she was the employers spokesperson during the adoption of the landmark Recommendation on Employment and Decent Work for Peace And Resilience No.205

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