

# COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



## Bios of Speakers

### Panel discussion on Emerging Issues

### “Universal rights-based social protection systems that adapt to evolving risks and support social resilience”

Wednesday, 12 February, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, Conference room 4

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Michael Woolcock**



Mr. Michael Woolcock is the Lead Social Scientist in the World Bank's Development Research Group, where he has worked since 1998. For nineteen of these years he has also been an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. His research focuses on strategies for enhancing state capability for implementation, on crafting more effective interaction between informal and formal justice systems, and on using mixed methods to better understand the effectiveness of "complex" development interventions.

In addition to more than 100 journal articles and book chapters, he is the co-author or co-editor of fourteen books, including *Contesting Development: Participatory Projects and Local Conflict Dynamics in Indonesia* (with Patrick Barron and Rachael Diprose; Yale University Press 2011 – a co-recipient of the 2012 best book prize by the American Sociological Association's section on international development), *Building State Capability: Evidence, Analysis, Action* (with Matt Andrews and Lant Pritchett; Oxford University Press 2017), and co-lead author (with Samuel Freije-Rodriguez) of the World Bank's *Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report 2020: Reversals of Fortune*. An Australian national, he has an MA and PhD in comparative-historical sociology from Brown University.

## H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk



H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk is a former President of Slovenia. He is also currently serving as the President of Club de Madrid.

He graduated from the University of Ljubljana in 1975 with a degree in law and later obtained his Ph.D. with a thesis on the principle of non-intervention in international law in 1982.

President Türk became Director of the Institute on International Law at the University of Ljubljana in 1983. Additionally, he was a member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a UN body of independent experts. In that capacity he served, between 1986 and 1992, as the UN Special Rapporteur on the realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 1990-1991, Türk took part in the drafting of the Constitution of Slovenia by preparing the draft chapter related to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

From 1992 to 2000, he became the first Slovene Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, and represented Slovenia on the UN Security Council in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, he was invited by Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General, to serve as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (2000-2005). In 2005, he returned to Slovenia as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana. He was elected as President in 2007 as an independent, being supported by several political parties. Dr. Türk chaired the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace between 2015 and 2016, which published the report “A Matter of Survival” (2017). In 2016, he was one of the candidates for the post of the Secretary-General of the UN.

In 2022, Türk was named one of the 12 Eminent individuals invited to be part of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism Comprises, which will be asked to build on the ideas in Our Common Agenda to make concrete suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues.

## Ms. Angela Kawandami



Ms. Angela Chomba Kawandami serves as the Permanent Secretary, overseeing the implementation of essential social protection services in Zambia, including Community Development, Social Welfare, and Child Development. In this role, Ms. Kawandami is dedicated to improving the living standards of the poor and vulnerable, fostering inclusive and sustainable human development.

A key aspect of Ms. Kawandami's responsibilities includes coordinating the implementation of social protection programmes within the Human and Social Development cluster of the National Development Plan, which outlines Zambia's strategic development priorities. Passionate about social protection, Ms. Kawandami views it as the cornerstone of Zambia's development agenda, playing a crucial role in building citizens' resilience and reducing vulnerabilities, poverty, and risks.

With a strong academic foundation, Ms. Kawandami has studied designing and implementing Adaptive Social Protection Systems with the Economic Policy Research Institute and has completed the World Bank Core Course on Adaptive Social Protection. Additionally, Ms. Kawandami is an active member of the World Bank's global community of practice for government leaders.

Prior to the current role, Ms. Kawandami served as Permanent Secretary-Special Duties under Cabinet Office. Beyond government, Ms. Kawandami has extensive experience in the banking and energy sectors, further enhancing leadership capabilities and strategic expertise.

**Mr. Héctor Ramón Cárdenas  
Molinas**



Mr. Héctor Ramón Cárdenas Molinas is the Executive Director of the Technical Unit of the Social Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Paraguay. He holds a master's degree in public and social policies from the Joint Program at Pompeu Fabra University in Spain and Johns Hopkins University in the United States, also, has a degree in History from the National University of Asuncion and has taken several postgraduate and specialized courses at the national and international level. He was Minister - Executive Secretary of the current Ministry of Social Development (formerly the Secretariat of Social Action) in the period 2013-2018. Among the main achievements obtained during his administration highlights the improvement of targeting the sustained increase in population coverage of social programmes and the incorporation of new programs and projects for vulnerable groups. He incorporated the approach and quality management of the public service for the social area.

He has an extensive professional career in the design and management of public and social policies at the national level and collaborations at the international level. He has led an inter-institutional technical team for the elaboration of the Public Policy for the Social Development of Paraguay 2030 and was the first National Coordinator for the implementation (2005) of the Paraguayan Conditional Cash Transfer Program called "Tekoporã", which also helped to design, as well as the National Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality. He was a consultant for international organizations such as the IDB, the World Bank and the European Union and often shares Paraguay good practices in national and international conferences, including in the United Nations, OAS, MERCOSUR, ECLAC, the European Union, among others, such his role as Vice-President of the 1st Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC, and Vice-President of the InterAmerican Commission on Social Development of the Organization of American States (CIDES OAS). He has previously chaired and been part of national delegations to international bodies, such as the Commission on Social Development, the Human Rights Council, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, among others. Currently, he is serving again as Executive Director of the Technical Unit of the Social Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Paraguay. He is also a university professor.

## Mr. Edgilson Tavares de Araújo



Mr. Edgilson Tavares de Araújo is the Director of the Department of Private Social Assistance Network of SUAS (Unified Social Assistance System), Ministry of Development and Social Assistance of Brazil and President of the National Social Assistance Council (CNAS). He holds a Ph.D. and Master's in Social Work (PUC-SP), a Post-Doctorate in Development, Society, and International Cooperation (CEAM/UnB), and specializing in Communication Strategies, Mobilization, and Social Marketing (UnB/Unicef), while also serving as a federal public servant and Adjunct Professor at the Federal University of Bahia in Public Administration, Public Policies, and Social Management.

He is currently on loan to hold the position of Director of the Department of Private Social Assistance Network of SUAS at the National Secretariat of Social Assistance / Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family, and Combatting Hunger (DRSP/SNAS/MDS). He also serves as the President of the National Social Assistance Council (CNAS).

He is a Permanent Professor in the Master's and Doctorate Program in Development and Social Management (PDGS/UFBA); the Graduate Program in Public Policy Management (PPGPP/UFRB); and the Master's in Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies at the National School of Public Administration (Enap). He has conducted numerous research studies and publications on topics such as social protection, SUAS, public policy evaluation, social management, care policies, drug policies, people with disabilities, and populations in situations of homelessness.