

Bios of Speakers

High-level panel discussion on

“Follow-Up of the World Summit for Social Development, in view of the World Social Summit under the title the Second World Summit for Social Development”

Monday, 10 February, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, Conference room 4

Moderator:
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, Mr. 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, Mr. 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.

H.E. Ms. Valérie Berset Bircher



H.E. Ms. Valérie Berset Bircher is the Deputy Head of the Swiss Labour Directorate and the Head of the International Labour Affairs, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

She holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of Geneva and from the University of Strasbourg (France). Her Ph.D. focused on the impact of new technologies on labour law (international law – labour law – human rights - comparative law). Ms. Valérie Berset Bircher has in-depth knowledge of international labour law issues. Valérie Berset Bircher deals with issues related to the global supply chain, sustainability, social responsibility of the company, international labour regulations and social partnership. She represents Switzerland in the International Labour Organization and in the United Nations (UNO) with regard to economy, finance and development. She was in charge of the SECO portfolio of Swiss-ILO technical cooperation projects.

Ms. Valérie Berset Bircher is a member of two federal committees: the Federal Commission for the Advisory Board of the National Contact Point for the OECD and the Tripartite Commission for ILO Affairs. In January 2019, she was appointed Ambassador by the Federal Council and Head of the International Labour Affairs at SECO. In 2022, she was seconded by SECO, to the team of the Director General of the ILO, in order to advise him on his entry into office and implement his strategic vision. She is the Deputy Head of the Swiss Labour Directorate.

Mr. Mario Nava



Mr. Mario Nava is the Director-General of the European Commission Directorate General “Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion” since 1 June 2024.

Mr. Nava joined the European Commission in 1994 and held various senior positions. From June 2020 to June 2024, he was the Director General of DG REFORM, in charge for the technical support to Structural Reform until he became the Director-General of the Directorate General “Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion” (EMPL) on 1 June 2024. Previously, he served as Director for “horizontal policies” in the Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union Directorate General. Prior to that, he was Director of the “Financial system surveillance and crisis management” Directorate and from 2011 to 2016, Director of the “Regulation and prudential supervision of financial institutions”. Previously, he was Head of the “Banking and Financial Conglomerates” Unit, of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Unit, a member of the Group of Policy Advisers of the EU Commission President, and a member of the Cabinet of the Competition Commissioner.

Alongside his current work, he is active in research and teaching. He is currently Visiting Professor at Bocconi University (Milan) and at Solvay Business School (Brussels) and has been teaching in several universities in Europe and Latin America. In 2023, he was named Bocconi’s university Alumnus of the year.

Ms. Anousheh Karvar



Ms. Anousheh Karvar is currently the French Government representative to the ILO and to the G7-G20 for Labour, Employment & Social Protection. She chaired, from 2019 to 2023, the Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (Alliance 8.7).

She holds a Ph.D. in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Paris – Denis Diderot & Ecole polytechnique. She was appointed by the President of the French Republic Knight of the Légion d’Honneur in July 2021.

She was formerly Deputy Director of the Minister of Labour’s private cabinet (2016-2017), and Counsellor to the President of the French Parliament, in charge of social policies (2017-2018).

In 2012, she joined the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs, the French Government audit, evaluation and inspection office for social, employment and labour public policies, and was appointed as the Head of Labour and Employment Section of the General Inspectorate (2012-2015).

Ms. Eleni Nikolaidou



Ms. Eleni Nikolaidou has been Head of Directorate Development Cooperation Policy at Hellenic Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece. In 2024, she became Deputy Director General of Hellenic Aid.

Ms Nikolaidou has also served as a Special Adviser to various Ministers and Deputy Ministers: Minister of Economy, Transport and Communications, Education, Foreign Affairs (2007-2010). She has been Head of International Relations Department at the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and before she was Senior Consultant at the KPMG Peat Marwick, Greece. Ms Nikolaidou has been a Financial Economist at Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations in London and participated in the implementation of complex programmes in developing countries. She started her career as Economist at the Bank of Cyprus in Nicosia, advising investors and exporters on export and investment opportunities in the Middle East.

Ms. Nikolaidou studied Economics at Queen Mary College University of London and holds an M.A. Degree on International Business and Economic Development from the University of Reading as well as Postgraduate Degree in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics, University of London.

Mr. Fabio Veras



Mr. Fabio Veras Soares holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University College London (UCL). He is a senior researcher at the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Development (IPCid) of the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), a Brazilian government think tank. He served as Director of International Studies at IPEA during 2023-2024, where he coordinated IPEA's work in organizing the T20 (Think 20) engagement group of the G20 under Brazil's presidency. He is currently one of the interim coordinators of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, which was launched last November during the G20 summit and one of the lead co-chairs of T20 South Africa Task force 4 on Solidarity for the Achievement of the SDGs.

At IPEA, he also served as the focal point for the former International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), overseeing research, process and impact evaluations as well as advisory service projects primarily focused on social protection policies and programmes, food security, poverty, and inequality. His work has spanned multiple countries, including Brazil, Paraguay, Kenya, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, India, Mozambique, and Yemen.

His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Development Effectiveness* and the *Latin American Research Review*. He has also contributed book chapters on the comparative analysis of cash transfer programmes.