

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Bios of Speakers Ministerial Forum on “Strengthening solidarity and social cohesion”

Tuesday, 11 February, 10:00 – 11:30 am, Conference room 4

Moderator:

H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Maria Szczerski



H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerski is the current Chair of the Commission for Social Development and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations in New York.

He graduated from the Jagiellonian University with a master's degree in political science, and in 2001, he obtained his Ph.D. at this university's Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations. He completed his habilitation (postdoctoral degree) in 2010, based on a dissertation entitled Dynamics of the European System, for which he received the Prime Minister's Award. In 2018, he was awarded the title of Professor of Social Sciences. Since 2000, he has been an affiliated scholar of the Jagiellonian University, and has twice been Deputy Director of its Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations. He lectured at the National School of Public Administration in 2008–2009 and later in Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2013, he has been an associate professor at the Jagiellonian University. Currently he is also a member of the Board of the Polish Institute of International Affairs and the Institute for Central Europe. In the years 2007–2008, he was Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then at the Office of the Committee for European Integration. He has been a member of the Civil Service Council to the Prime Minister (2009–2010) and a Deputy to the Polish Sejm (2011–2015).

In January 2015, he became the representative of the Polish Parliament at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. From 2015, he was Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, from 2017, he served as Chief of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Poland and later as Head of the International Policy Bureau in the Chancellery.

H.E. Ms. Kaisa Juuso



H.E. Ms. Kaisa Juuso is the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland. She has served as a Member of Parliament since 2019.

Prior to her political career, Ms. Juuso worked as a specialist in international healthcare at the international unit of the Swedish Social Insurance Agency in Sweden and as a nurse in various locations. Before her career in healthcare, Ms. Juuso worked at Local Insurance in 1997–2004 and at Veritas Pension Insurance in 1989–1997.

Ms. Juuso holds a degree in Psychiatric Nursing awarded by Lapland University of Applied Sciences in 2010. She first graduated with a Master's degree in Behavioural Sciences from Stockholm University in 1986, and she also holds a Diploma in Insurance from 1994.

Ms. Juuso holds several positions of trust. She has been a member of Tornio City Council since 2013 and a member of Tornio City Executive since 2017. She also served as the Lapland District Secretary of the Finns Party in 2015 and a member of the Finns Party's Board of Directors in 2018.

H.E. Ms. Camilla Waltersson-Grönvall



H.E. Ms. Camilla Waltersson-Grönvall has been serving as Sweden's Minister for Social Services since 2022. A member of the Moderate Party, she has held various positions within the party, including spokesperson roles for social policy (2017–2022) and education policy (2014–2017). She has been a member of the Riksdag since 2010.

Before her national political career, Ms. Waltersson-Grönvall was active in local politics in Lilla Edet, serving as chair of the faculty board (2002–2010) and vice chair (1998–2002). She was also a member of the Gothenburg region education group during these periods.

Her areas of responsibility include social services, disabilities, and children's rights.

H.E. Ms. Betty Amongi Ongom



H.E. Ms. Betty Amongi Ongom is the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda. She is a human rights, democracy and justice enthusiast who has worked hard to defend the rights of women in Uganda including spearheading the campaign advocating for the scrapping of refund of bride price in Uganda.

Through her work with global parliamentary associations; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter Parliamentary Union, where she has been serving as an executive member, Ms. Amongi has travelled widely to Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Japan, Myanmar, Samoa, Tonga, Oman, Yemen, Gambia and Saudi Arabia to meet government officials in the campaign for inclusion of women in Parliament.

She has also been involved in global campaigns on peace and security. Through her work in Somalia, the clan leaders who were opposed to a constitutional provision of including women representation in Parliament had accepted to progressively adopt a quota system for women. She is an expert trainer of trainees for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and IPU and serves as a gender expert for the Uganda gender partnership donor group to help shape donor priorities in the areas of women's empowerment. She is a trained professional in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, Political Science and Gender and Development Studies. She served as Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

H.E. Ms. María Luisa Ramirez



H.E. Ms. María Luisa Ramírez Coronado is the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, bringing extensive experience in public administration, education, and diplomacy. She previously served as Director General of the Chancellery for over a decade and held key positions in the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN).

She holds a Master's in Leadership and Strategy from Formato Educativo in Spain, a Bachelor's in Pedagogy with a focus on Educational Administration from Universidad Rafael Landívar, and additional certifications in public administration and governance. Ms. Ramírez is recognized for her contributions to cultural diplomacy and her commitment to Guatemala's international engagement.

H.E. Mr. Mahdi Mohamed Djama



Currently serving as the Director General of the Social Development Agency of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Mahdi Mohamed Djama has managed nationwide teams, overseen multimillion-dollar budgets, and negotiated project financing with international donors. With expertise in financial auditing, compliance, and risk analysis, he has successfully implemented initiatives focused on poverty reduction, youth employment, and infrastructure development. His career spans roles in banking, finance, and consultancy, including positions at Dahabshil Bank, Shell, and Libya Oil.

A dedicated leader, he also serves as Vice President of the Djibouti Red Crescent Society and lectures at Djibouti University.