



**Daniela Bas, Director,
Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN DESA representative**

Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011. Political scientist with a major in International Politics, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dissertation on “The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities”. She is also a certified journalist and multicultural/ life coach. Ms. Bas interest has always been people-centred in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held. In addition to her work at the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles from 1996 until 2011 in the private sector in Italy and was, inter alia, adviser for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as well as special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini) on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.



**HE Lana Zaki Nusseibeh
Permanent Mission of The United Arab Emirates to The United Nations**

Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations in New York since September 2013.

Ambassador Nusseibeh served as Vice-President of the UN General Assembly for the 72nd session. During the 72nd and 73rd sessions of the UN General Assembly, she served as Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform. She has also served as President of the UN Women Executive Board in 2017, as Co-facilitator of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the UN General Assembly for the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, and as Co-facilitator for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2015.



María Soledad Cisternas
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, UN

Appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility since June 2017, Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes has been promoting the rights of persons with disabilities at regional and global levels.

Prior to the current appointment, Ms. Cisternas was the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations and recipient of the National Prize of Human Rights (2014-2015). She has been working closely with the United Nations on disability issues for the past two decades, including serving as an expert before the ad hoc committee that developed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for which she is also the rapporteur for individual complaints.

As a human rights lawyer by training, she also serves as the director of the Legal Programme on Disability in the faculty of law of Diego Portales University, and contributes to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities at national, regional and international levels.

Ms. Cisternas trained municipal judges, civil servants and members of civil society in various regions of Chile in different aspects of the rights of persons with disabilities, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; co-produced the documentary “Six Women in America” dealing with the process of the implementation of the Convention from a gender perspective; and advised the Human Rights Secretariat of the Latin American Union of Blind Persons (ULAC) and members of the Advisory Group of the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).

She graduated from the Universidad Catolica de Chile with a law degree and was awarded the title of Supreme Court attorney. Ms. Cisternas has also completed her Master’s studies in political science at the same university with a focus on political institutions and processes.



Dr. Victor Pineda
president World Enabled

Dr. Victor Pineda is an activist, scholar and advocate for the disability community. He is the President of World Enabled and of The Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES), the leading international organization dedicated to the promotion of accessibility of the built and virtual environments. He is also a presidential appointee serving the U.S. Access Board. Dr. Pineda serves on the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board and is the Co-Chair of the Global Network for Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development. He has received numerous grants and awards, including a National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation research grant, Jefferson Award, and the AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award. Dr. Pineda holds a Master’s in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Malaysia is the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), appointed by the Secretary-General, following an election by the General Assembly on 22 December 2017.

She succeeds Joan Clos of Spain to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his dedicated service to the Organization. Dr. Clos led UN-Habitat during the pivotal years when the world's population became majority urban. During this time, he championed the development of a New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11), the first development goal focused on sustainable urbanization. His emphasis on urban planning and national urban policies has been widely appreciated and applied to plan and steer the world's cities toward sustainability, economic and social progress and inclusion.

Ms. Sharif was Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia. Prior to her appointment as Mayor, she was the first woman to be appointed as President of the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai in 2011. As mayor of a local authority, she leads Municipal Council of Seberang Perai to achieve its vision of a “cleaner, greener, safer and healthier place to work, live, invest and play”. She is a champion of Gender Responsive Participatory Budgeting to integrate gender perspectives into the governance process as a tool to mainstream gender into budgetary and development policy and planning. During her tenure, the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai was the first Local Authority to implement and achieve six quality-based management ISO certifications.



Emilia Saiz

Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.



Jose Viera

CEO of the World Blind Union, UN Representative of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities HLPF

Mr. Viera, from Córdoba, Argentina, has been appointed by the World Blind Union Officers as the CEO following the retirement of then CEO Dr. Penny Hartin.

Mr. Viera has solid experience in human rights, inclusive development and management of disability organizations. Before he was appointed CEO, he has been serving as the Human Rights Policy Advisor for the WBU since February 2016. Previously, he was the Regional Coordinator for Latin America Disability Rights Promotion International, York University, Canada. He has also worked as a Consultant for the UNCRPD Committee, a Program coordinator of the Disability Office, Social Development Agency in Cordoba,

Argentina, an associate Professor of the International Relations Department at the Siglo 21 University, Argentina and as a program officer at the Siglo 21 University.

In addition, Mr. Viera served as an affiliate or volunteer in the following positions: President of the National Federation of the Blind in Argentina; Secretary for Vocational Training and Employment for Latin-America Blind Union, and Secretary General of the National Federation of the Blind, Argentina.

Mr. Viera has a Masters degree in Management of Development from Torino University, Italy and a Bachelor of International Relations from Siglo 21 University, Argentina. He was also an international Student at Roehampton University, London and has International Baccalaureate from Lester B. Pearson College, Canada.



Cid Torquato

Director of Secretariat of Persons with Disabilities of City of Sao Paulo

Cid Torquato, a native of Mogi das Cruzes, is a lawyer, graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of São Paulo. He was an executive at Lowe & Partners Latin America, StarMedia Networks, an e-Government advisor to the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, under the Fernando Henrique Cardoso Government (FHC), and founder of the Brazilian Chamber of Electronic Commerce. He is a member of the World Summit Award, the main global award for digital content, as well as an advisor to CONADE - National Council for the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and coordinator of MAIS + Movement Digital Accessibility and Safe Internet, from Camara-e.net. Author of books on Digital Economy and Electronic Commerce, he wrote Entrepreneurship without Borders - An Excellent Path for People with Disabilities, after becoming quadriplegic in 2007. He was Assistant Secretary of the São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, until he was invited to take over the São Paulo Municipal Secretariat for People with Disabilities. He is married to Fabienne Muzy and the father of Nicolau and Nina.



Fabiana Goyeneche
Director of Social Development, City of Montevideo

Ms. Goyeneche is a lawyer and public scribe and a member of the Uruguayan Institute of Criminal Law. Ms. Goyeneche studied Criminal Law and Criminology in the Universidad de la República in Uruguay.

She has vast experience in public policies on sexual diversity, gender and ethnic racial perspective and participated in the preparation of reports for international human rights organizations.

She was part of various meetings and forums for the human rights of persons deprived of liberty, participated in conferences, and collaborated with the follow-up visits of the United Nations Rapporteur against Torture and published on the subject.

Based on Ms. Goyeneche's activism in the social movement, she shared spaces with Mercosur social participation movements, supported meetings of young people with disabilities, and promoted initiatives for gender equality and sexual diversity.

She has worked in the National Directorate of Social Policies of the Ministry of Social Development and was a legal advisor to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

She is the second substitute for the Mayor.



Sara Rawshanara

Chief of Staff, New York City Mayor's Office of Persons with Disabilities

Sara is the Chief of Staff of the NYC Mayor's Office of Persons with Disabilities. She previously worked as Budget Manager and Analyst for the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, and the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget.

NYC MOPD has steadily improved services and programs for the over 920,000 New Yorkers who self-identify as people who are living with a disability as well as the approximately six million annual visitors to the city who have disabilities in all facets of life including transportation, employment, healthcare, housing, education, access to City services, and financial empowerment. Working to make New York the most accessible city in the world, the office regularly engages in advocacy and policy making at the local, state, national, and international levels to make certain that accessibility and full inclusion are key priorities for all public and private stakeholders alike.



Dr. Bushra Almulla

Executive Director, Community Development Sector, Department of Community Development, Abu Dhabi (recorded)

Dr. Bushra Al Mulla has more than 20 years, during which she held different leadership positions at the Department of Community Development, and Prime Minister's Office at Ministry Cabinet Affairs & The Future, Community Development Authority in Dubai, and Osraty for Physio and Rehab Center.

She holds a Master of Health Management from Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and Bachelor of Medicine and General Surgery from Dubai Medical College.



**Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo,
Global Disability Advisor, World Bank Group**

Charlotte V. McClain-Nhlapo is Global Disability Advisor of the World Bank Group.

As Disability Advisor, she focuses on working with and supporting operational teams across the institution to ensure that Bank policies, programs and projects take people with disabilities into consideration. Before joining the World Bank, she served as USAID's coordinator for disability and inclusive development, appointed by U.S. President Barak Obama in 2011 to lead the government's efforts in disability inclusive development, from developing policies and country strategies to technical assistance for program implementation.

Prior to that, she worked as a Senior Operations Officer at the Bank to integrate disability inclusive development into operations in the East Asia Pacific and Africa regions. Earlier in her career, she was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to the South African Human Rights Commission focusing on social and economic rights, disability rights, and child rights. From 1996 to 1998, she also served as a project officer on child protection for UNICEF.

She holds a Master's Degree in international law and administration from the University of Warsaw, Poland, and an LLM from Cornell Law School.