

MEMBERSHIP LIST

SENIOR CO-CHAIR



António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

António Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. Having witnessed the suffering of the most vulnerable people on earth, in refugee camps and in war zones, the Secretary-General is determined to make human dignity the core of his work, and to serve as a peace broker, a bridge-builder and a promoter of reform and innovation. Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015, heading one of the world's foremost humanitarian organizations during some of the most serious displacement crises in decades. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, during which time he was heavily involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor. As president of the European Council in early 2000, he led the adoption of the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs, and co-chaired the first European Union-Africa summit. He was a member of the Portuguese Council of State from 1991 to 2002. Mr. Guterres was elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1976 where he served as a member for 17 years. During that time, he chaired the Parliamentary Committee for Economy, Finance and Planning, and later the Parliamentary Committee for Territorial Administration, Municipalities and Environment. He was also leader of his party's parliamentary group.



CO-CHAIR



H.E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid
President of Estonia

H.E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid is an Estonian politician who has served as President of Estonia since 2016. From 2004 to 2016 she was a Member of the European Court of Auditors. From 2004 to 2006 Mrs. Kaljulaid organised the financial audit of the research and development funds of the budget of the European Union and from 2007 to 2010 she was responsible for the audit of the Structural Policies. From 2004 to 2007, she was the auditor of the Galileo project of the European Union. From 2010 to 2016 she coordinated the preparation of the Annual Report and State of Assurance of the European Court of Auditors. From 2005 to 2007, she was a member of the Europol Audit Committee and chaired the committee in 2007. From 2006 to 2008, she was the chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee of the Court of Auditors. From 2010 to 2014, she was responsible for the methodology and preparation of the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors. In 2016, she worked in the field of the agriculture audit. In addition, Mrs. Kaljulaid was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Center from 2001 to 2004. She was also a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Tartu from 2009 to 2011 and the Council Chair of the University of Tartu from 2012 to 2016. Mrs. Kaljulaid has been a co-author of the social-political radio talk show *Keskpäevatund* (Midday Hour) in radio station Kuku from 2002 to 2004 and the editor of the *Eurominutid* (Euro-minutes) radio show from 2007 to 2016 in the same station. From 1999 to 2002, Mrs. Kaljulaid was Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. Her duties included organisation of cooperation of the Office of the Prime Minister with Estonian central bank, the Ministry of Finance and ministries that had larger budgets, as well as coordination of relations with the International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Nordic Investment Bank and World Bank). She participated in preparing the pension reform together with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Social Affairs and advised the Prime Minister in annual budget negotiations held with other ministers. She graduated from the University of Tartu in 1992 in the field of genetics in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and completed master's studies in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration in 2001. Mrs. Kaljulaid is married and has four children.



ALTERNATE CO-CHAIRS



H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen

Former President of the Republic of Finland

H.E. Tarja Halonen is the former President of the Republic of Finland, serving from 2000 to 2012. Prior to her presidency, she served as a Member of Parliament for 21 years, served as Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. She also served as Chair of the Parliamentary Grand Committee, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Law Committee, Chair of the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee and was a longstanding member of the Helsinki City Council. President Halonen is known for her political knowledge of trade unions and commitment to human rights, and was also a strong advocate early on in her career for sexual rights and sexuality education. To these ends, she has served in various capacities. She was Co-Chair of the Millennium Summit, the International Labor Organization's World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, Co-Chair of the United Nations High-level Panel on Global Sustainability and Co-Chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. She is currently Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders and member of the Board of Trustees of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, where she also served as member of the board between 2006 and 2009. In 2013, she was designated as Drylands Ambassador of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. She is also a member of the Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health. President Halonen holds 17 honorary degrees from various universities, including from her alma mater, the Helsinki University, where she earned a Master of Law.



H. E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was the Fourth President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in office from 2005 to 2015. Prior to his election as President, he served in different party, military and government positions. He joined the Cabinet in 1988 and held several ministerial portfolios including Minister for Finance, Minister for Water, Energy and Mineral Resources and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He also was the longest serving Foreign Minister in the history of Tanzania after serving that position for a ten year tenure. President Kikwete was also elected Chairman of the African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government in 2008, where he took a proactive role in the resolution of conflicts in the Republic of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also advanced to greater heights the relations between the AU and the UN, EU and International Community at large. President Kikwete is a Graduate in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam.



MEMBERS



H.E. Dr. Awa Marie Coll Seck
Minister of State to the President
of the Republic of Senegal

H.E. Dr. Awa Marie Coll Seck has served as Minister of State to the President of the Republic of Senegal since 2017. She previously served as the Minister of Health of the Republic of Senegal from 2012-2017. She earned her medical degree in 1978 and has a long record of service in Public Health and Development. Dr. Coll Seck has previously worked as a specialist in infectious diseases in leading hospitals in Senegal and France and as Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Dakar and Chief of Service for Infectious Diseases at the University Hospital in Dakar. From 1996 to 2001 she served as Director of the UNAIDS Department of Country and Regional Support. From 2004 to 2011 Dr. Coll Seck was Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and Minister of Health and Prevention of Senegal from 2001 to 2003. Other important positions held by Dr. Coll Seck: Chairperson of Committee B of the World Health Assembly and President of the Assembly of the Ministries of Health of the West African Health Organization. She has been awarded numerous professional and academic honors and is the author of more than 150 scientific publications.



H.E. Mr. Elhadj As Sy
Secretary-General, International
Federation of Red Cross and Red
Crescent Societies

H.E. Mr. Elhadj As Sy has served as the Secretary General of the IFRC since 2014 and has a long record of holding leadership roles in the humanitarian sector. He graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna and holds a Post Graduate diploma in Education from the Ecole normale superieure in Dakar. From 1988 to 1997, he served as Director of Health and Development Programmes with Environment and Development Action in the Third World in Senegal. From 2005 to 2008, Mr. Sy was Director, HIV/AIDS Practice with the United Nations Development Programme in New York. He has also worked with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as its Africa Regional Director and later as Director of Operational Partnerships and Country Support in Geneva. Mr. Sy has also held the position of UNAIDS Representative in New York and Director of the New York Liaison Office. Before joining the IFRC, Mr. Sy was UNICEF's Director of Partnerships and Resource Development in New York. He has also served as UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and Global Emergency Coordinator for the Horn of Africa.





H.E. Ms. Dame Meg Taylor, DBE
Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum

H.E. Ms. Dame Meg Taylor currently serves as the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Ocean Commissioner. She holds a LL.B degree from Melbourne University and a LL.M degree from Harvard University. Ms. Dame Taylor has previously practised Law in Papua New Guinea and served as a member of the Law Reform Commission. She then went on to pursue her new role as Papua New Guinea's Ambassador to the United States, Mexico and Canada between 1989 and 1994. In 1999 she was appointed to the post of Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) of the World Bank Group following a selection process led by civil society, industry, and academia. Ms. Dame Meg Taylor is co-founder of Conservation Melanesia and has served on the boards of various international conservation and research organizations, as well as of a number of companies in Papua New Guinea in the natural resources, financial, and agricultural sectors. In 2002, she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.



Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Gabriela Cuevas Barron is a Mexican politician who has been in politics for the last 20 years and a senator since September 2012. She is the Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee, which is responsible for the analysis of Mexico's foreign policy. She currently serves as the 29th President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Ms. Cuevas Barron was a member of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (2014–2016), which she chaired for the first year, and has also been the internal auditor for the IPU in 2017. Ms. Cuevas Barron first became involved with politics at the age of 15, when she joined the National Action Party (PAN), the main opposition force during Mexico's transition towards democracy. Together with a group of young people, she founded the Fundación Educa México, A.C., which is committed to improving education in Mexico. Ms. Cuevas Barron has worked to promote laws on human rights, gender equity, the fight against corruption, transparency and environmental protection. She is particularly active on the human rights of migrants and the protection of children. She supported reform to the Law of the Mexican Foreign Service so that Mexican migrants who were not registered at birth had the right to obtain birth certificates from the country's consulates. She spearheaded the initiative to harmonize the Mexican Constitution on asylum and recognition of refugee status with international treaties, particularly in human rights and international humanitarian law. She has also worked extensively on promoting respect for the human rights of Central American migrants. At the IPU, she also worked with the Bahrain Parliament as co-rapporteur on the role of parliamentarians in protecting the rights of children. Ms. Cuevas Barron has participated in several international parliamentary forums such as the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, where she co-chaired the Committee on Political Affairs, Security, and Human Rights; the Mexico-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee; and the Pacific Alliance's Parliamentary Monitoring Committee. Ms. Cuevas Barron studied Political Science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (2001).



***Dr. Tedros Adhanom
Ghebreyesus***

Director-General, World Health
Organization (WHO)

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has served as the WHO Director-General since May 2017.

He is the first WHO Director-General to have been elected from multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve as WHO's chief technical and administrative officer. Immediately after taking office on 1 July 2017 Dr. Tedros outlined five key priorities for the Organization: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women's, children's and adolescents' health; health impacts of climate and environmental change; and a transformed WHO.

Prior to his election as WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012–2016. In this role he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health from 2005–2012, where he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system. All roads lead to universal health coverage for Dr. Tedros, and he has demonstrated what it takes to expand access to health care with limited resources. The transformation he led as Ethiopia's Minister of Health improved access to health care for millions of people. Under his leadership Ethiopia invested in critical health infrastructure, expanded its health workforce, and developed innovative health financing mechanisms.

Beyond Ethiopia, Dr. Tedros' global leadership on malaria, HIV/AIDS, and maternal and child health has been immensely impactful. He was elected as Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Board in 2009, and previously served as Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board, and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board. He received the Decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag in 2016, and was awarded the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award in recognition of his contributions to the field of public health in 2011.





Dr. Natalia Kanem

Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

On 3 October 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Dr. Natalia Kanem as Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Dr. Kanem brings to the position more than 30 years of strategic leadership experience in medicine, public and reproductive health, social justice and philanthropy. She started her career in academia with the Johns Hopkins and Columbia University schools of medicine and public health. While serving as a Ford Foundation Officer from 1992 to 2005, she helped pioneer work in women's reproductive health and sexuality, in particular through her position as the representative for West Africa. She then served at the Foundation headquarters, becoming Deputy Vice-President for its worldwide peace and social justice programmes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America. From 2014 to 2016, Dr. Kanem served as UNFPA Representative in the United Republic of Tanzania. In July 2016, she was named Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA in charge of programmes.

Dr. Kanem was founding president of ELMA Philanthropies Inc., a private institution focusing primarily on children and youth in Africa. She also has been a senior associate of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies. Dr. Kanem holds a medical degree from Columbia University, New York, and a Master's degree in Public Health, with specializations in epidemiology and preventive medicine, from the University of Washington, Seattle. She is also a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she studied history and science. Dr. Kanem becomes the fifth Executive Director of UNFPA since the Fund became operational in 1969.



Ms. Kristalina Georgieva

CEO, World Bank Group

Ms. Kristalina Georgieva is the Chief Executive Officer for the World Bank. In this role, she works to build support and mobilize resources for poor and middle-income countries, and to help create better opportunities for the world's most vulnerable people.

Previously, she played a key part in shaping the agenda of the European Union, first as Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, managing one of the world's largest humanitarian aid budgets, and later as Vice President for Budget and Human Resources, in charge of the European Union's €161 billion (US \$175bn) budget and 33,000 staff around the world.





Mrs. Graça Machel

Founder, Graça Machel Trust

Mrs. Graça Machel is a renowned international advocate for women's and children's rights and has been a social and political activist over many decades. Ms. Machel is a former freedom fighter and was the first Education Minister of Mozambique. Her contributions to the Africa Progress Panel, the United Nations Secretary-General's Millennium Development Goals Advocacy Group and the High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda have been widely appreciated. She is a member of The Elders, Girls Not Brides, Board Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, African Ambassador for A Promised Renewed, President of SOAS, University of London, Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Board Chair of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, President of the Foundation for Community Development, founder of the Zizile Institute for Child Development. As Founder of the newly established Graça Machel Trust, she has focused more recently on advocating for women's economic and financial empowerment, education for all, an end to child marriage, food security and nutrition, and promoting democracy and good governance.



Helle Thorning-Schmidt

CEO, Save the Children International

Helle Thorning-Schmidt joined Save the Children after a formidable political career. Formerly the Prime Minister of Denmark, Helle led a coalition government from 2011 until 2015. Helle was member of Parliament and the Leader of the Social Democratic Party for 10 years. She was a member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004, and previously worked as an international adviser to the Confederation of Trade Unions. Throughout her career Helle has tackled significant national and global issues, specifically with regards to children's rights. Helle has been recognised for her commitment to helping children fulfil their potential by ensuring access to quality education and was invited by the UN General Secretary to be a Global Education Champion to promote the Global Education First Initiative. In 2015 she was appointed to the Education Financing Commission led by Gordon Brown. As CEO of Save the Children, Helle oversees humanitarian and development programmes that directly reach 55 million children in around 120 countries every year, including in some of the most difficult and challenging contexts.





Mrs. Melinda Gates
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation

Along with Bill, Melinda shapes and approves the Foundation's strategies, reviews results, and sets the overall direction of the organization. Together, they meet with grantees and partners to further the foundation's goal of improving equity in the United States and around the world. Through her work at the foundation over the last fifteen years, Melinda has seen first-hand that empowering women and girls can bring transformational improvements in the health and prosperity of families, communities and societies. In 2012, Melinda spearheaded the London Summit on Family Planning, which adopted the goal of delivering contraceptives to an additional 120 million women in developing countries by 2020. Her work has led her to increasingly focus on gender equity as a path to meaningful change. Melinda received a bachelor's degree in computer science and economics from Duke University in 1986 and a master's in business administration from the Fuqua School of Business in 1987. After joining Microsoft Corp. that year, she distinguished herself as a leader in the development of multimedia products and was later appointed Microsoft's General Manager of Information Products. In 1996, Melinda left Microsoft to focus on her philanthropic work and family.



Mme. Li Xiaolin
President, Chinese People's
Association for Friendship with
Foreign Countries

Mme. Li Xiaolin has served as the President of The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries since 2011. She started her career in CPAFFC in 1975. Under her leadership, CPAFFC has set up local branches in all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central government, and in a number of cities, districts and counties in China. CPAFFC has also set up 46 China-regional or China-national friendship organizations and established cooperation with nearly 500 non-governmental organizations and institutions in 157 countries. Ms. Li has been elected as the Member of the 10th and 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, Member of the Standing Committee of the 12th CPPCC National Committee and the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the 12th CPPCC National Committee. She also serves as the Honorary President of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development and as President of China International Friendship Cities Association. Ms. Li initiated cooperation between CPAFFC and Every Woman Every Child in 2014 and established the EWEC China Partnership Network in 2015 to integrate the resources of government institutions, academies, companies and individuals to promote the health of women, children and adolescents all over the world. Ms. Li graduated from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1983 with a Master's degree.





Ms. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen
CEO, Plan International

Ms. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen has served as the CEO of Plan International since September 2015. She is the former UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Management at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Ms. Albrechtsen has worked for over 25 years in international development, human rights, change management and diplomacy. She has held senior leadership positions in times of significant change in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Danish government, and most recently at the UNFPA. Ms. Albrechtsen is Danish and holds a law degree from the University of Copenhagen. She has a strong background in development and humanitarian work. She served with the UNDP from 1997 to 2004, in Indonesia and later as Director of the Administrator's Office at UNDP Headquarters. She led country operations for UNFPA in Turkey, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan from 2004-2006. From 2007-2009, she led the Danish government's humanitarian and civil society affairs work as the director of the relevant division in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

