



SIDE EVENT 1: SUSTAINABLE PEACE BUILDING

BIOGRAPHIES

CO-CHAIRS

Mohammed Haneef Atmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Born in 1968 in Laghman, eastern Afghanistan, Mohammad Haneef Atmar is an Afghan politician and one of Afghanistan's most senior government leaders since the creation of the post-Taliban democratic government in 2001. In April 2020, he was designated as Minister of Foreign Affairs, his fifth ministerial posting, where he currently serves as Acting Foreign Minister awaiting parliamentary confirmation. Previously, he has served as National Security Advisor (2014-18), Minister of Interior (2008-10), Minister of Education (2006-08) and Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (2002-06). Mr. Atmar is credited with major reforms and public service delivery achievements. As President Ghani's National Security Advisor, Mr. Atmar reformed the National Security Council to lead effective inter-agency policy formulation and coordination processes. This led to better decision making in matters relating to national security. Among his main achievements, he led government efforts to strengthen the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). Atmar promoted regional cooperation with a focus on security and counter-terrorism and led the negotiation of a successful peace agreement between the Afghan Government and Hezb-e-Islami, a major anti-government armed faction. As Minister of the Interior, Mr. Atmar undertook major reform and development of the Afghan National Police to provide law and order and security services. At the Ministry of Education, he oversaw the launching of Afghanistan's National Education Strategic Plan, producing significant results in education expansion and quality improvement across the nation. This saw remarkable gains for girls and women. As Minister of Rural Development, Mr. Atmar designed and implemented the National Solidary Programme (NSP), Afghanistan's largest public investment initiative in history, with a focus on rural poverty reduction. Meanwhile, Mr. Atmar served as member of the Presidential Oversight Committee under President Karzai, where he played a key role in formulation of the first Afghanistan National Development Strategy in 2007-8. Alongside his government career, Mr. Atmar has played an active role in Afghanistan's modern political life, pioneering the participation of a new generation of technocratic leaders in Afghan politics. He founded the Rights and Justice Political Party in 2010. Here, Mr. Atmar ran an energetic, nation-wide campaign in the 2019 Presidential Elections, before withdrawing from the final race in the interest of focusing on the nascent Afghan peace process. During the 1990s, Mr. Atmar was as an aid worker holding senior positions with various national and international non-governmental organizations. A major part of his experience of working with communities across Afghanistan comes from this crucial part of his early career. Mr. Atmar holds a master's degree in Public Policy and Post-war Development Studies from the University of York, UK, and has published several academic works on the role of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. Atmar is married and has two children. He speaks Dari, Pashto and English.

H.E. Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management

Mr. Lenarčič took office as Commissioner for Crisis Management in December 2019. Previously he served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU. In 2014 to 2016, he was State Secretary for European and Foreign Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister. From 2008 to 2014, he served as Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. He has longstanding experience as career diplomat in the Slovenian diplomatic service since 1992, including as Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE (2003-2006) in Vienna and Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OSCE (2005).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

H.E. Rula Ghani, First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Born and raised in Lebanon, First Lady Rula Ghani holds a diploma from I'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France (1969), an MA in Political Studies from the American University of Beirut (1974), and an MS in Journalism from Columbia University in New York (1983). She met her husband, President Ashraf Ghani, at the American University of Beirut, and the couple married in March 1975. They were blessed with two children, Mariam and Tarek. Before returning to Kabul in 2002, Rula dedicated her time to the welfare of her family while holding a series of incidental jobs. She also volunteered at the World Bank Family Network, an organization attending to the needs of the families of World Bank Group staff. Once back in Afghanistan, she took an interest in understanding the social challenges in Kabul and concentrated on helping Aschiana, a grassroots organization focusing on the needs of the disadvantaged children in the city. After the election of her husband as President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in September 2014, she assumed the role of First Lady of Afghanistan. Together with a small team of colleagues, she is working to foster a positive environment in which every citizen of Afghanistan can achieve his/her potential and can take full part in the development of the country.

Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi, State Minister of Peace of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi is one of the political, economic and socio-cultural activists in Afghanistan. Mr. Naderi was a member of the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from 2015 to 2018 as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing. In the socio-cultural sector, he has served as the Director of the Agha Khan National Consulate for Afghanistan, and one of the supporters of charitable activities and strengthening of sports institutions. In the economic field, Naderi has acted as one of the innovative and creative entrepreneurs and investors in the commercial and production fields, and during the years 2006-2008, he was a member of the board of directors of Bank-e-Millie. He has completed primary and secondary school in the country. He attended high school and college in London and holds a bachelor's degree in international business from the London University. Mr. Naderi, as a result of his comprehensive efforts during his tenure as Minister of Urban Development and Housing of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, he was honored to receive the Ghazi Amanullah Khan State Medal of Excellence from the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2017. Also, due to his brilliance and initiatives in the economic fields, he has succeeded in receiving a medal and an award entitled "Peace Through Commerce" from the United States Government in 2012.

Michelle Bachelet Jeria, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on September 1st, 2018. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established in 1993 and Ms. Bachelet is the seventh Commissioner. Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions

(2006 – 2010 and 2014 – 2018). She was the first female president of Chile. She served as Health Minister (2000-2002) as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister (2002 – 2004). During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. Among her many achievements, education and tax reforms, as well as the creation of the National Institute for Human Rights and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights stand out, as do the establishment of the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, the adoption of quotas to increase women's political participation, and the approval of Civil Union Act legislation, granting rights to same sex couples and thus, advancing LGBT rights. Since the early 1990s, Ms. Bachelet has worked closely with many international organizations. In 2010 she chaired the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, a joint International Labor Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO) initiative, which sought to promote social policies to stimulate economic growth and social cohesion. In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women, an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of women and girls internationally. Economic empowerment and ending violence against women were two of her priorities during her tenure. She has recently pledged to be a Gender Champion, committing to advance gender equality in OHCHR and in international fora. After finishing her second term in March 2018, she was named Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 192 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities. As Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child, Ms. Bachelet launched Every Woman Every Child Latin America and the Caribbean, the first platform for tailored, regional implementation of the EWEC Global Strategy. Michelle Bachelet has a Medical Degree in Surgery, with a specialization in Pediatrics and Public Health. She also studied military strategy at Chile's National Academy of Strategy and Policy and at the Inter-American Defense College in the United States.

SEGMENT A: SAFEGUARDING AND STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION – SPEAKERS

Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai, Chief Negotiator, Afghanistan Peace Negotiation Team

Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai, son of Mahmood Khan Stanekzai, was born in the year 1958 in the Moghol Khail village of Mohammad Agha district of Logar province. He completed his primary education at Deh-Naw Secondary School in Mohammad Agha district of Logar province, then attended the Kabul Telecommunication Training Institute and completed his 14th grade in microwave education. After completing his military service, Mr. Stanekzai completed his military education in the field of military telecommunications at the Military University (Harbi Pohanton), and subsequently took encampment and commanding courses at the Officer Training Brigade. Subsequently, he received his master's degree in Business Administration from Preston University in Peshawar, Pakistan in 2000 and obtained his second master's degree in 2006 in Engineering Philosophy in Sustainable Development from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. Mr. Stanekzai worked as a chief researcher at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) for six months in 2008 in the field of peace and security and conducted scientific researches. His numerous scholarly writings in the fields of security, development, and peace have been published nationally and internationally. Before entering politics, Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai held senior military and civilian positions in government and non-government agencies. In addition to performing his duties in the Department of Organization and the Department of Operations of the Ministry of Defense, he has also served as the commander of regiment and the deputy head of division. During his immigration, Mr. Stanekzai was involved in humanitarian aid and development services in Pakistan and Iran, and has held various management and leadership positions, including executive director of the AREA. After the formation of the Interim Administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, he was introduced as the Commissioner for Human Rights and then as the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to the Emergency Loya Jirga. It is noteworthy that during this period, Mr. Stanekzai laid the foundation of con-temporary technology in Afghanistan and attracted considerable assistance from the international

community. Mr. Stanekzai is currently the head of the peace negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Advisor to the President on Internal Security. He previously served as Director General of the National Directorate of Security (from 2016 to 2019), Acting Minister of National Defense Ministry of Afghanistan (from 2015 to 2016), Chairman of the Secretariat of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan (from 2009 to 2014), Deputy of the Weapon Disposal and Civilization Commission (from 2005 to 2010) and Minister of Communications and Information Technology (from 2002 to 2004). Mr. Stanekzai has actively participated in major national and international conferences, including the First and Second Bonn Conferences, the London Conference, Tokyo, Chicago, the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process, and other important international conferences. While having a deep knowledge of the country and the region, he has made many efforts in the fields of development, good governance, peace, reconciliation and security in the country and has also had important and effective achievements.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women's rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women's empowerment and gender equality. She has completed her PhD on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

H.E. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ine Eriksen Søreide is Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. She was Minister of Defence from 2013 to 2017. Before that, she served as member of the Storting (Norwegian parliament) for 12 years. From 2009 to 2013, she chaired the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. In the same period, she was also Head of the Delegation for Relations with the European Parliament as well as Head of the European Consultative Committee. From 2005 to 2009, Ms Eriksen Søreide chaired the Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs. Ms Eriksen Søreide started her political career in 1996 as a member of the Central Committee of the Young Conservatives. From 2000 to 2004, she was Chair of the Young Conservatives. She was a member of the Conservative Party Executive Committee from 2004 to 2014. Ms Eriksen Søreide has a graduate degree in Law from the University of Tromsø. She was born in 1976 and grew up in Strømmen, just outside Oslo.

H.E. Robert Rydberg, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Robert Rydberg is Sweden's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was previously the Ambassador to the Italian Republic, San Merino, FAO, IFAD and WFP. Before that Mr. Rydberg was Deputy Director-General/Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the State of Israel, Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chair of the EU

Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom). Mr. Rydberg holds a Master's degree in Law from Stockholm University, specializing in European and International private law. Mr. Rydberg speaks Swedish, English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Hebrew and Afrikaans. He was born in 1955 in Stockholm and is married with two children.

Prof. Dr. Claudia Warning, Director General for Asia, Latin America, Southeastern and Central Europe, the Middle East, Civil Society and Churches

Since May 2018, Professor Claudia Warning has been the Director-General for the Middle East; Asia; Latin America; South-Eastern and Eastern Europe at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Her Directorate-General is responsible for technical and financial cooperation with the BMZ's partner countries in the said continents. For thirteen years, from 2005 to 2018, she was a member of the Board of the German Protestant development agency Bread for the World within the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung and of its predecessor organization, the Church Development Service. Within the Board, she was responsible for International and Domestic Programmes in more than 90 countries. Ex Officio she was also Executive Director of the Protestant Association for Cooperation in Development (EZE) and of Service Overseas (DÜ), she chaired the Board of the College of the Ecumenical Study Institute in Bochum (ÖSW) and she was also a member of the Board of the Bread for the World Foundation. Prof. Dr. Warning has vast experience in development from her work in various governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family, where she served on the Board from 1999 to 2005; the German Commission Justitia et Pax, the Federal Ministry of Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE, now a part of GIZ); From 2005 to 2009, she chaired the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid Non-Governmental Organisations (VENRO). She served a total of eight years on the VENRO Board. Other bodies of which she is, or was, a member include: the board of trustees of the German Development Institute; the governing body of the GEPA fair trade organization; the board of Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Foundation; the board of the Evangelische Jerusalem-Stiftung; the board of the Brussels-based European umbrella organization of Protestant aid agencies, APRODEV; the board of the Anna Huberta Roggendorf foundation; the board of the Dr. Ilse Maria Ehmann foundation; the Indienhilfe Siegburg Prem Sadan Board and others. Professor Warning studied geography in Bonn, Germany, and in Pune, India. In July 2012 she became an honorary professor at the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) of Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences. Professor Warning has published many papers on development issues, among them on participatory urban development, environmental and resource protection, and savings and loan systems.

Shaharзад Akbar, Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

H.E Shaharзад Akbar, Chairperson of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission served as Deputy National Security Council on Peace and Civilian Protection. Shaharзад was previously Senior Advisor to Afghan President on High Development Councils (August 2017-August 2018) and in this capacity, coordinated the prioritization of development projects and programs for high level decision-making. Prior to this, Shaharзад was Country Director for Open Society Afghanistan (Sep 2014-July 2017), a non-profit that supports Afghan civil society and media in areas of peacebuilding, human rights and promoting tolerance. Before this, Shaharзад was partner and chief operating officer with QARA Consulting, a firm owned and run by young Afghans in Kabul which she co-founded in 2010, an analyst for the Free and Fair Elections Foundation, a journalist for BBC Afghanistan and a research assistant on the Women of Courage book project. In 2012, she was the first elected chairperson for the Afghanistan 1400 movement. Born in Jawzjan, Afghanistan in 1987, Shaharзад lived for a few years as refugee in Pakistan during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Shaharзад completed an MPhil at Oxford University as a Weidenfeld scholar in 2011; previously she obtained her BA (cum laude) in anthropology from Smith

College in the U.S. Shaharзад's writing has appeared in international and Afghan media including Newsweek and Al Jazeera, and academic journals. Based in Kabul and an active tweeter and writer, Shaharзад is an active voice on political issues related to her country and her generation. In 2017, she was selected by World Economic Forum as Young Global Leader.

Habiba Sarabi, Afghanistan Peace Negotiation Team

Habiba Sarabi studied pharmacy at Kabul University. She is a politician and worked as a reformer in Afghanistan during the post-Taliban era. During the Taliban tenure, Ms. Sarabi worked as a women's rights activist and education activist, training girls and immigrant women in Pakistani camps. She was Minister of Women's Affairs from 2002 to 2004 and in 2005 she was appointed as the first female governor in Bamyan province. Habiba Sarabi joined Zalmi Rasoul's electoral team as his deputy in 2014 and was the most prominent woman activist in this election round. After the formation of the National Unity Government, Ms. Sarabi worked as an advisor on women and youth affairs with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the National Unity Government, and then in 2016, she was appointed as Deputy Chairman of the High Peace Council. Habiba Sarabi received a prestigious award titled "Prestigious Ramon Magsaysay" in 2013 for her work in good governance and girls education. She also received the N-Peace Award in 2016 for her tireless work to bring peace to Afghanistan and its focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. Habiba Sarabi is currently a member of the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mary Akrami, Executive Director, Afghan Women's Network

Mary Akrami is the director of Afghan Women Network (AWN) and former Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC), the organization that established the first shelter for women at risk in 2003. She envisioned an equitable and peaceful society and initiated the community-based peace Shuras (councils) in different provinces of Afghanistan. These peace councils became the only platform where women were able to find an opportunity to engage in conflict resolution mechanisms at local levels and that was the start of women's inclusion in community based peace building. Ms. Akrami's organization has been working with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that are engaged in peace-building and conflict-resolution programs and provide them with trainings and mentoring on mechanisms that could enhance women's engagement in political and community-based peace building. In addition to promoting women's contribution in the community based peace building and conflict resolution, Ms. Akrami has been engaged in advocacy and campaigning for women's inclusion within the political and peace processes, including the 2010 Peace Consultative Jirga & the 2011 Grand Assembly for Peace Process. In recognition of her struggles for women's rights, Ms. Akrami received the International Women of Courage Award from the United States, Department of State in 2007. She has participated in numerous international conferences and regional platforms for women in peace in the Af-Pak region. Ms. Akrami is an alumni of New York University's Human Rights Advocacy Fellowship in New York, United States.

H.E Hasina Safi, Minister of Women Affairs of Afghanistan

Ms. Hasina Safi, daughter of Abuld Rahim Jalali, born in Laghman province on 10 December 1975. She did her primary and secondary education in Naheed Shaheed High school and graduated from Malalai high school in 1995. She accomplished teacher training in English language. She has a BA in Law and political science from Tolo-e-Afthab University. She is a professional leader, well known civil society & women rights activist. She is an expert with considerable and proven experience of over 20 years in development practices focused on organizational development, development of policies & programs, women economic empowerment, capacity building, advocacy for women's rights, civil society, peace building and human

rights. She started her first formal struggle at the age of 15 teaching English as a second language to Afghan Refugee women. During the past two decades she has worked in different national and international organizations at the leadership levels i.e. International Rescue Committee, Danish Committee for Aide to Afghan Refugees, International Organization on Migration, Afghan Women's Educational Center, United Nations Development Program, Afghan Women's Network, High Peace Council, member of peace negotiation team(2018) Acting minister, ministry of information and culture Islamic republic of Afghanistan and presently serving as Acting minister of women affairs. Ms. Safi has been one of the strategic advocates for women's rights, representing Afghan women and civil society in several National, regional and International events, conferences, symposiums on Afghan Women such as peace consultation jirga, traditional jirga, London conference, Kabul conference and senior official meetings, peace Jirga etc. She has been nominated to N-Peace Award and has received Bibi Khadija Awards, prior to many other awards over her various positions. She is a great supporter of education; she believes quality education is the key solution towards the sustainability of a nation with commitments to transfer skills, experience and expertise gained through practice. Her journey towards success never lacked challenges – not something to doubt about an Afghan woman's life. She also believes in a balanced professional and personal life.

SEGMENT B: REINTEGRATING REFUGEES AND RETURNEES - SPEAKERS

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Filippo Grandi is the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He was elected by the UN General Assembly on 1 January 2016 to serve a five-year term, until 31 December 2020. Grandi was born in Milan in 1957 and has been engaged in refugee and humanitarian work for more than 30 years. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, having previously been its Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. He also served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan and has worked with NGOs and UNHCR in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and at our Geneva headquarters. Grandi holds a degree in modern history from the State University in Milan, a BA in Philosophy from the Gregorian University in Rome and an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.

H.E. Noor Rahman Akhlaqi, Minister for Refugees and Repatriation

H.E. Noor Rahman Akhlaqi, Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Kabul University and a Master's degree in Strategic Business Administration from Azad Islamic University. Before assuming his role as Minister, Mr. Akhlaqi was the General Manager of Noor TV Network, a member of the leadership committee of Jamiat-e Islami Party and chief editor of Sobat weekly newspaper. He previously worked in MAIL and other private sector companies. Mr. Akhlaqi was born in 1979, in Deh-Salah, Andarab district, Baghlan province.

Baroness Liz Sugg, Minister for Sustainable Development, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Baroness Sugg CBE is the Minister for Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). She was first appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development on 13 February 2020. On 5 March 2020 the Prime Minister also appointed her as the Special Envoy for Girls' Education.

She was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Development from 23 April 2019 to 13 February 2020, Government Whip (Baroness in Waiting) from 15

June 2017 to 26 July 2019 and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport from October 2017 to April 2019. Baroness Sugg became a Conservative life peer on 30 August 2016.

Hartwig Schafer, Vice-President South Asia, World Bank

Hartwig Schafer became the World Bank's Vice President for the South Asia Region on July 1, 2018. In managing the World Bank's engagement in South Asia to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity, Schafer leads relations with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. He manages a portfolio of financial support worth more than \$50 billion. Before joining the region, Schafer served as the Vice President for Global Themes where he oversaw the World Bank Group's engagement in corporate priority areas of Fragility, Conflict and Violence, Gender, Infrastructure, Public-Private Partnerships, Guarantees, Climate Change, and Knowledge Management. In his previous role as Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services, Schafer was responsible for the World Bank's business policies, practices, and procedures for lending products and knowledge services to client countries. He led several key reforms, including the rollout of the Bank's new policies on procurement, environmental and social safeguards, and innovation of the Bank's lending and knowledge instruments. Previously, Schafer served as the World Bank's Country Director for Djibouti, Egypt, and Yemen in the Middle East and North Africa Region. He was Director for Strategy and Operations in the Sustainable Development Network. Schafer has also worked as Director for Operations and Strategy in the Africa Region, Country Director for Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe and Chief Administrative Officer in the Africa Region. A German national, Schafer has held technical and managerial positions in the World Bank as well as the European Commission for over 30 years. He brings strong operational experience from several regions and sectors. His academic background is in Economics (Ph.D.) and Agricultural Economics.

António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration

On Friday 29 June 2018, the member states of IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, elected Portugal's António Vitorino as the Organization's next Director General. Mr. Vitorino (DOB 12 January 1957), succeeded the United States' William Lacy Swing, who served two five-year terms as Director General. Mr. Vitorino's directorship began on 1 October 2018. Mr. Vitorino is a former European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs (1999-2004) and former Minister of the Presidency and National Defence (1995-1997). He has also enjoyed a distinguished career in Portugal as a lawyer as well as in electoral politics. He was elected to Portugal's Parliament in 1980. In 1983 he became Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs. He later served as Deputy Secretary for the Governor of Macau until 1989, when he returned to Lisbon to become a judge of the Constitutional Court, a term that ended in 1994. He subsequently served as Minister for National Defence and Deputy Prime Minister within the government of António Guterres, now the United Nations' Secretary General.

Charlotte Slente, Secretary General, Danish Refugee Council

Charlotte Slente is the Secretary General of the Danish Refugee Council, heading Denmark's largest, and one of the world's leading humanitarian organisations, with more than 7,000 staff and 8,000 volunteers in 40 countries around the globe, and an annual turnover of 3 billion DKK. She has held this position since December 2019. Prior to this role, Charlotte had a long career in the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has held multiple senior management posts central to Denmark's development and humanitarian policy, hereunder State Secretary for Development Policy and Under-Secretary of State for Global Development – heading the Danish International Development Agency DANIDA. Charlotte Slente has also served high-level diplomatic posts, including Under-Secretary of State for Global Politics and Security, as well as Under-Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. Ms Slente has been Ambassador for Fragile States,

as well as Economic Diplomacy and held several senior posts at Denmark's bilateral Embassies. Ms Slente started her career with UNDP and holds a Master of Science in International Business Administration and Modern Languages from the Copenhagen Business School.

Mr. Farid Zarif, Afghan Diaspora Representative

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 12 August 2015 announced the appointment of Farid Zarif of Afghanistan as his Special Representative for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Until his new assignment, Mr. Zarif was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). He has extensive experience in diplomatic, international and United Nations affairs. During his diplomatic service, he served in various positions inside and outside Afghanistan, including as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (1981-1987), Deputy Foreign Minister (1987-1989) and Presidential Adviser on International Affairs (1989-1991). Having joined the United Nations in 1993, Mr. Zarif has since served at Headquarters in New York as well as in political, humanitarian and peacekeeping operations in Eritrea, Liberia, South Africa, Iraq and Sudan in various capacities, including Chief of Section, Director of Division, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and Chief of Staff. He served as Director of the Europe and Latin America Division in the Office of Operations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2010-2011). Mr. Zarif graduated from Kabul University's Faculty of Law and Political Science in 1973. After graduating with honours from the Afghan Institute of Diplomacy, he studied international relations and diplomacy at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Born in 1951, he is married and has two sons.