

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the realization of human rights

28 September 2021

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 1 September 2018.

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).

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 Labour 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 1,000 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.



Rt Hon Gordon Brown, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2007-10) and United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education



Gordon Brown served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2007 to 2010, Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1997 to 2007 and as a Member of Parliament in his home county of Fife, Scotland, from 1983 to 2015.

He is the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and is a passionate advocate for the rights of children. He believes every girl and boy deserves the opportunity of an education, learning and skills for the future. Gordon is Chair of the High-level Steering Group of Education Cannot Wait, the fund for education in emergencies; Chair of the Inquiry on Protecting Children in Conflict; and serves as Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity.

Gordon is the author of several books including *Beyond the Crash: Overcoming the First Crisis of Globalization* and *My Life, Our Times* and most recently *Seven Ways to Change the World* (Simon & Schuster, June 2021).

Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate Economist, Columbia University

Joseph E. Stiglitz is an American economist and a professor at Columbia University. He is also the co-chair of the High-Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress at the OECD, and the Chief Economist of the Roosevelt Institute.

A recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (2001), he is a former senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank and former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

In 2000, Stiglitz founded the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, a think tank on international development based at Columbia University. In 2011 Stiglitz was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



Known for his pioneering work on asymmetric information, Stiglitz's research focuses on income distribution, climate change, risk, corporate governance, public policy, macroeconomics and globalization. He is the author of numerous books including, most recently, *People, Power, and Profits* and *Rewriting the Rules of the European Economy*.

Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health



At its forty-fourth session in July 2020, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, from South Africa, as Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Tlaleng Mofokeng is a medical doctor with expertise advocating for universal health access, HIV care, youth friendly services and family planning.

Tlaleng Mofokeng is a member of the boards of Safe Abortion Action Fund, Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing, Accountability International. She is also the Chair of the Soul City Institute board. She has experience in advocacy training for healthcare professionals and her areas of focus have been on gender equality, policy, maternal and neonatal health, universal health access, post violence care, menstrual health, and HIV management.

Tlaleng Mofokeng has been Commissioner at the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa and advisor to the Technical Committee for the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Framework Strategy in South Africa, successfully mobilizing across movements working on issues of children and adolescents, persons with disabilities, migrants and persons living with HIV/AIDS. She has briefed the United States Senate congressional staff on the impact of the Global Gag Rule globally and in the region. She has worked as a first responder on matters of gender-based violence, and has been an expert witness in court, leaning on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to defend the rights of the abused with an interest to ensure access to post-violence care.

Magdalena Sepúlveda, Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and former Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Dr. Magdalena Sepúlveda is the Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She is also a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT) and of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. From 2008 to 2014 she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.



Gunilla von Hall, Foreign Correspondent, Svenska Dagbladet



Gunilla von Hall is a foreign correspondent for the major Swedish daily newspaper, Svenska Dagbladet. She is based at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva.

Ms. von Hall covers the United Nations and international affairs, including humanitarian and human rights issues as well as economic and development topics. She regularly travels for stories on these issues in the field and in conflict areas. Ms. von Hall has reported from more than 40 countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Iraq, Turkey, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia and the Islamic

Republic of Iran.

Ms. von Hall is the former President of the United Nations Correspondent's Association in Geneva (ACANU). She has also been a member of the Executive Committee of the Swiss Press Association (APES).

Ms. von Hall regularly moderates debates and panels on international topics. Furthermore, she has contributed to three books, been published in the Swedish anthology "The War & The Truth", and in the anthology "Excellent Swedish Journalism". She is also published in the book "Family, Migration and Separation".