



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

REGIONAL MEETING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

15 – 16 January 2024

Centre International de Conférence Genève (17 rue de Varembe - [map](#))

Geneva, Switzerland

PROGRAMME OF WORK

(CET Time)

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the programme of activities for the implementation of the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#) (General Assembly resolution [69/16](#)), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is requested to organize regional meetings in each of the five regions to address the three themes of the Decade: recognition, justice and development. The final regional meeting is planned to be take place for the Asia and the Pacific region in 2024.¹

The Decade, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution [68/237](#) and to be observed from 2015 to 2024, constitutes an auspicious period of history when the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors join together with people of African descent and take effective measures to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The presence of Africans and people of African descent in Asia and Pacific region has long contributed to the diversity and enrichment of the region and continues to do so, notably through migration flows and increased cooperation with African countries. The Asian and

¹ Four meetings have been held for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015, for Europe, Central Asia and North America in 2017, for Africa in 2019 and for the Middle East region in 2022.

Pacific societies also share with Africans and people of African descent the common heritage of colonial and post-colonial experiences.

Like in other regions, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur in countries of Asia and the Pacific region and prevents population groups that are racially discriminated from fully enjoying their human rights. The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) to which all States of the region are signatories proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin.

The Decade and its programme of activities provide concrete recommendations to realize this commitment and build multicultural societies that are peaceful, socially harmonious, and economically prosperous. It is a unique opportunity to underline the important contribution made by people of African descent and to promote their equal enjoyment of all human rights, in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Monday 15 January

7:45 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 – 10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Human Rights Office

H.E. Seongmee Yoon, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Yong Chanthalangsy, Chair of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

June Soomer, Chair Designate of the Permanent Forum for people of African Descent (video message)

Tanzeela Qambrani, Representative of the Sheedi community and former Member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh

Ayor Makur Chuot, Member of Parliament of Western Australia

Appointment of a Rapporteur

Adoption of the Agenda

General statements

10:00 – 11:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION 1: RECOGNITION – Building strong frameworks to promote equality, non-discrimination and social harmony in the Asia-Pacific region**

Under the pillar “recognition,” the first panel discussion will focus on the legal, institutional and policy frameworks to promote equality, non-discrimination, inclusion,

tolerance and social harmony with a view to eliminating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in Asia and the Pacific region. It will provide an overview of the international anti-racism framework and take stock of national and regional measures in place in the region, including education and awareness-raising and information gathering. It will further identify opportunities for strengthening existing frameworks at national and regional levels.

Moderator: Rory Mungoven, Chief of the Asia-Pacific section, OHCHR

Panellists:

- Chinsung Chung, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Barbara G. Reynolds, Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African descent
- Sara Lou Arriola, Regional Director for IOM Asia and the Pacific and Coordinator of the Regional UN Network on Migration
- Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher (Hon), President of Australian Human Rights Commission
- Megumi Komori, Acting Secretary-General, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

12:30 – 13:30 SPECIAL EVENT – [Voices of the Decade: Connecting Cultures through Art and Media](#) - Organised by OHCHR with the participation of Sam Okyere and Rene Hoshino.

13:30 – 15:00 PANEL DISCUSSION 1 (continued)

Moderator: Rory Mungoven, Chief of the Asia-Pacific section, OHCHR

Panellists:

- Linh Anh Moreau, Secretary General of UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific
- Mimmie Claudine Watts, Associate Professor and Director, Industry Cooperation, Institute of Health & Wellbeing, Federation University Australia and Chairperson, African Science Research & Innovation Council (ASRIC), African Union Commission, Australian Chapter.

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

15:00 – 16:30 PANEL DISCUSSION 2: JUSTICE – Understanding manifestations of racism and racial discrimination in Asia and the Pacific region

Under the pillar “justice,” the second panel discussion will discuss the ways in which racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur in countries in Asia and the Pacific region, reflecting on the representations and experiences of Africans and people of African descent since early settlements until present day.

Moderator: Tracie Keese, Co-Chair of Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement

Panellists:

- Bina D’Costa, Member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
- Oussouby Sacko, Professor of Architecture at the Human Environmental Design Program, Faculty of Design, and the Graduate School of Design (Architecture), Kyoto Seika University
- Anthony Unor, Ph.D. in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Chulalongkorn University
- Mario Gomez, Executive Director at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

TUESDAY 16 JANUARY

08:30 – 10:00 PANEL DISCUSSION 2 (continued)

Moderator: Tracie Keese, Co-Chair of Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement

Panellists:

- Shihan de Silva, Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Senior Associate at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge and former Member and Rapporteur of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project
- (Waskam) Emelda Davis, Councillor of the City of Sydney Council
- Mohammed Elnaiem, PhD candidate, Cambridge University
- Antje Missbach, Professor of Sociology at Bielefeld University

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

10:00 – 11:30 PANEL DISCUSSION 3: DEVELOPMENT – Addressing challenges in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Under the pillar “development,” the third panel discussion will highlight existing initiatives and identify opportunities for promoting economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, for Africans and people of African descent in Asia and the Pacific region, notably through strengthened cooperation in the areas of social and economic development. It will highlight challenges and discuss contributions of Africans and people of African descent to the development of societies.

Moderator: Hongjiang Huang, member of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Panellists:

- Ashwini K.P, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism
- Eunice Kwalteng, Coordinator of Publication and External Relations and of the Program for African Diaspora and Descents in Japan, Africa Japan Forum
- Philip Binondo, Human rights advocate and founding member of the African Diaspora Insight and the African/American Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines.

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

12:30 – 13:30 SPECIAL EVENT – [Extending the Decade of People of African Descent: Continuing the Journey Towards Recognition, Justice, and Development in Asia and the Pacific Region](#) - Organized by United Nations former Fellows for People of African Descent with the participation of Samantha Sibanda, Sylvarius Alando Chia, Justina Kehinde Obaoye, Christian Lambang Fonye, Phoebe Mwanza and Philip Binondo.

13:30 – 15:00 PANEL DISCUSSION 3 (continued)

Moderator: Hongjiang Huang, member of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Panellists:

- Dahlia Ducreay, Current Head of the International Department at the Silk Road Youth Forum
- Shine Choi, Senior Lecturer, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University
- Bonny Ibhawoh, Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

General debate: Member States, representatives of the international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and representatives of civil society are invited to deliver statements.

15:00 – 16:00 CLOSING SESSION

- Summary of general discussions by the Rapporteur
- General statements
- Closing remarks by the Chairperson

Profiles of Moderators and Speakers

OPENING SESSION

Mr. Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Human Rights Office

Mr. Türk is the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He took up his official functions as High Commissioner on 17 October 2022. He has devoted his long and distinguished career to advancing universal human rights, notably the international protection of some of the world's most vulnerable people - refugees and stateless persons.

Prior to this, Mr. Türk was the Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General where he coordinated global policy work. He previously served as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (2019-2021) and as Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva (2015-2019). Over the course of his career, he held a number of key positions at UNHCR headquarters and field offices, including as Representative in Malaysia. Mr. Türk holds a doctorate in international law from the University of Vienna and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Linz, Austria. He has published widely on international refugee law and international human rights law. He is fluent in English and French and has a working knowledge of Spanish.



H.E. Ms. Yoon Seongmee, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva

Ambassador YOON Seong-mee is Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, and Deputy Permanent Representative at Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ambassador Yoon joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of Korea in 1994. Since then, she has served diverse positions at overseas missions and headquarters. She served as First Secretary and Minister-Counsellor at Korean Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. She also worked at the Korean Embassy in the Republic of the Philippines as First Secretary and in the State of Qatar as Counsellor. She was Director of the United Nations Division at MOFA.

Prior to taking the current position, Ambassador Yoon served as Director-General for Protocol Affairs. She also worked as Director-General in the Secretariat of the National Assembly. Ambassador Yoon graduated from Seoul National University and holds a M.A. in International Studies from University of Washington, WA, USA. She was a visiting scholar at Columbia University from 2018 to 2019. She received the



<p>Service Merit Medal in 2013.</p>	
-------------------------------------	--

H.E. Ambassador Yong Chanthalangsy, Chair of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy assumed his post as Representative of the Lao PDR to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2022 and is concurrently the assistant to the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy has more than 22 years of experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, including as Ambassador of the Lao PDR to France and Switzerland, covering Greece, Turkey, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the UNESCO, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the UNOG and Personal Representative of the President of the Lao PDR to the Organisation of Francophonie. H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy has been an active contributor to the Ministry as a Spokesperson, Director-General of Press Department as well as for the Institute of Foreign Affairs in the early 2000's. He was also the Member of the ASEAN Level High Level Task Force to review ASEAN Bodies and has several year of experience working at the ASEAN Secretariat, among others. H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy received his higher education on Journalism from Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme de Paris; Centre de Formation des Journalistes de Paris; and Indian Institute of Mass-Communication.



Dr. June Soomer, Chair Designate of the Permanent Forum for people of African Descent

Honourable Ambassador Dr. June Soomer has diverse experiences through her work in the diplomatic, financial and education sectors obtained through over thirty (30) years of academic and professional experience functioning at the managerial, operational and technical levels. She has a sound understanding of contemporary development

issues and continues to advocate for equality and equity in sustainable development. She currently serves as the Chair of the Global Campus Council of the University of the West Indies, as the Chair designate of the United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, and a member of the Saint Lucia Reparations Committee. She received her PhD from the University of the West Indies. She served as Saint Lucian Plenipotentiary Ambassador to CARICOM and the OECS with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs, was an OECS Commissioner, and was the Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Dr. Soomer has received numerous awards, in the areas of Central Banking, Education, Diplomacy, Regionalism, Development and Leadership.



She is also a consultant and recently completed the Sustainable Development Plan for the Virgin Islands (British). She also wrote strategic plans for small communities in Sani Lucia. She has published on Regional Integration; Cricket; Issues on Enslaved Women and Women of African Descent, Emancipation, Reparation and on the work of Nobel Laureate Arthur Lewis.


Ms. Tanzeela Qambrani, Representative of the Sheedi community and former Member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh




Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot, Member of Parliament of Western Australia

Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC is a Member of the Legislative Council of the 41st Parliament of Western Australia. She is WA's first MP of African descent and the first person from a South Sudanese background to occupy a seat in any Parliament in Australia. Ayor is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People and a member of the Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council. In 2023, she was recognised as one of the world's most outstanding young politicians and presented with the One Young World Politician of the Year Award for making positive changes in her community.



H.E. Ambassador Kadra A. Hassan	
<p>H.E. Kadra Ahmed Hassan was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to UNOG, WTO, I.O and Switzerland, in August 2016. Prior to this, H.E. Kadra Ahmed Hassan served several positions at the Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the UN in New York and served as Chargée d'affaires. H.E. Kadra Ahmed Hassan also served as Counsellor to Multilateral Relations Department at the Republic of Djibouti's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. H.E. Kadra Ahmed Hassan served as Coordinator of the African Group and chief negotiator on issues of social development, human rights, humanitarian, and cultural rights – amongst others. In addition to her role as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary, she is also Chair of the Special Committee on Trade and Development (CTDSS) at the WTO and Member of the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) Board.</p>	

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: RECOGNITION – Building strong frameworks to promote equality, non-discrimination and social harmony in the Asia-Pacific region

Mr Rory Mungoven, Chief of the Asia-Pacific section, OHCHR	
<p>Mr Rory Mungoven of Australia has more than 30 years of professional experience in the Asia-Pacific region, with Government, United Nations and international NGOs.</p> <p>Mr Mungoven is currently Chief of the Asia-Pacific Section with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.</p> <p>From 2016 to 2019, Mr Mungoven served as the country representative for ILO in Myanmar, one of its largest field offices.</p> <p>From 2004 to 2007, he served as Senior Human Rights Advisor (UNDP) with the Resident Coordinator’s Office in Sri Lanka during the peace process and post-tsunami response. Prior to joining the UN System in 2004, Mr Mungoven worked as an Australian diplomat, posted in Namibia and Pakistan, and as an advisor in the Prime Minister’s department. He also served in leadership roles in international non-governmental organizations and the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. Mr Mungoven obtained his Master’s degree in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development from the Australian National University and an honours degree in history from the University of Sydney.</p>	
Emeritus Professor Chinsung Chung, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	

Dr. Chinsung Chung is an emeritus professor of sociology at Seoul National University. She received her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago. She published books on social movements in Japan, Japanese military sexual slavery, human rights situation in Korea and Japan, and Koreans in Japan. She also published many papers at various prestigious academic journals including Human Rights Quarterly, Critical Asian Studies, Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development, and Development and Society. She has served as President of Korean Association of Women's Studies, President of Korean Sociological Association, and now is President of Korean Association of Human Rights Studies. She has also devoted in various human rights movements. She was a co-representative of the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, and now working for the marriage migrants in Korea as a co-representative of Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy. Dr. Chung served as a member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. In 2018 Dr. Chung was elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and she was re-elected for a second term in 2021.



Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher (Hon), President of Australian Human Rights Commission

Emeritus Professor Croucher was appointed President of the Australian Human Rights Commission on 30 July 2017, after 10 years at the Australian Law Reform Commission. Her term concludes on 29 July 2024. Prior to this she was Dean of Law at Macquarie University (Nov 1999–Feb 2007) and Interim Dean at Sydney Law School (1997–1998). She has lectured and published extensively, principally in the fields of property, equity and legal history, and increasingly in public policy and in 2007, she became a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Professor Croucher has been acknowledged for her contributions to public policy and outstanding contributions to the legal profession. In 2011 she was recognised as one of the 40 'inspirational alumni' of UNSW, where she gained her PhD in legal history 1994. In 2014, Professor Croucher was acknowledged for her contributions to public policy as one of Australia's '100 Women of Influence' in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac awards; and for her 'outstanding contribution to the legal profession' role in supporting and advancing women in the legal profession she was awarded the Australian Women Lawyer's award. In 2015, she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'significant service to the law as an academic, to legal reform and education, to professional development, and to the arts'. In October 2016 Macquarie University conferred on her the title of Emeritus Professor and in 2018 and 2020 she was awarded honorary LLDs by UNSW and Macquarie University respectively.



Ms Megumi Komori, Acting Secretary-General, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

As the Acting Secretary-General of IMADR, she has worked for the advocacy, networking, and program development/coordination for the elimination of discrimination at the national, regional and international levels. She is a member of the Board of Directors of International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN).



Ms Sara Lou Arriola, Regional Director for IOM Asia and the Pacific and Coordinator of the Regional UN Network on Migration

Prior to joining IOM, Sarah was the Undersecretary (Vice-Minister) for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. She managed the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare of over 10 million overseas Filipinos through 94 diplomatic posts. Her work included the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of distressed nationals who were caught in wars, civil or political unrests, natural disasters, victims of abuse or maltreatment, and those who were stranded due to economic hardships and most recently, due to the pandemic. She was the Philippines' Chief Negotiator for the GCM and executed the Philippine kafala reform and fair and ethical recruitment campaigns in the Middle East.



Ms Linh Anh Moreau, Secretary General of UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific

Ms Linh Anh Moreau became Secretary-General of MOWCAP in 2022. She joined UNESCO Bangkok in 2021 to support the Communication and Information Unit with the implementation of activities related to documentary heritage and indigenous languages. Prior to joining UNESCO Bangkok, Ms Linh Anh Moreau was Programme Officer at the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA). She completed her BA and MA in Southeast Asian Studies at SOAS University of London and a Master's in Communication and Information at the University of Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle. She also has experience in cultural programming at the Asia Society Texas Center, as well as in anthropological research on indigenous sea peoples of the Andaman Sea with the French National Centre for Scientific Research.



Ms Barbara G. Reynolds, Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Ms. Reynolds is the Vice-President for Administration, Advancement and Planning at the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago. She served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University

of Guyana from August 2014 to September 2019. Prior to this, Ms Reynolds was Head of Education for Save the Children UK, after having spent the previous two decades with UNICEF in programme, management and representational roles at Headquarters and country offices. Ms. Reynolds began her professional career as a teacher and continues to be involved in education. She Co-Chairs the CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force and is a Member of the Independent Technical Advisor Panel for the Global Partnership for Education. She is an active human rights professional, and an experienced human rights and gender mainstreaming facilitator. She holds a BA Education (Caribbean Union College), MA in Curriculum and Teaching (Howard University), the Post-Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (University of London) EdD in International Education Development/Curriculum and Instruction (Columbia University) and the MSt in International Human Rights Law (University of Oxford). Ms Reynolds' second working language is Portuguese.



Professor Mimmie Claudine Watts, Associate Professor and Director, Industry Cooperation, Institute of Health & Wellbeing, Federation University Australia and Chairperson, African Science Research & Innovation Council (ASRIC), African Union Commission, Australian Chapter

Mimmie Watts is an Associate Professor of Nursing, Public Health, and Leadership and Director Industry Cooperation, Federation University Australia. Assoc Professor Watts coordinates the Master of Health Leadership and the Master of Health Services Management, that she also lectures into at Federation University, Australia. She has some twenty years' experience in the health and higher education sectors.

A dynamic Public Health expert and academic, Professor Watts is deeply passionate about Health policy, Leadership, Social Inclusion, Teenage Pregnancy, Refugee Health, Migrant Women's Health, Adolescent and Child Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention/Management.

Professor Mimmie Watts is the Chair, African Science Research and Innovation Council, African Union Commission, for the Australian chapter.

Professor Watts has garnered recognition for her impactful work in Australia and internationally, particularly in addressing improving education for disadvantaged individuals, improving women's health, and championing opportunities for marginalised groups.

Assoc/Prof Watts has a track record in academia, leadership and governance, and extensive board experience as a non-Executive director.

Associate Professor Watts a Policy Committee member of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

Professor Watts holds a PhD in Public Health from La Trobe University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne; a Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Dr Watts completed the Emerging Executive Women in Health



Leadership Program at Harvard University, USA. Professor Watts is the author of 'Sahara Piercing the Thatch Ceiling' and other scientific refereed journal articles, with great impact.

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: JUSTICE – Understanding manifestations of racism and racial discrimination in Asia and the Pacific region

Dr. Tracie Keese, Co-Chair of Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement

Dr. Tracie L. Keese (United States of America) served for 25 years in the Denver Police Department and subsequently served as New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Deputy Commissioner of Training and the first-ever Deputy Commissioner of Equity and Inclusion. She served as Project Director of the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice - a US Department of Justice project designed to improve relationships and increase trust between minority communities and the criminal justice system. She was also Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado Denver, teaching courses on race, crime and justice. She is the Co-founder, President, and Chief Operating Officer at the Center For Policing Equity (CPE), which promotes police transparency and accountability.



Ms Bina D'Costa, Member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Ms. D'Costa is a Professor, Department of International Relations at the Coral Bell School, the Australian National University (ANU) and an Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow. She has published six books and many essays, including Nationbuilding, Gender and War Crimes in South Asia (2011), Children and the Politics of Violence (2017) and Cascades of Violence (co-authored with John Braithwaite, 2018). She is a member of the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission, Bangladesh. As a Senior Migration and Displacement Specialist with UNICEF, she led its research program at the Office of Research. As a frontline researcher and humanitarian practitioner, she has contributed to Europe, East Africa and Horn of Africa refugee emergencies, and served in the first UN Rohingya Emergency Response Mission in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. She has provided inputs and technical advice to witness protection and victim support mechanisms at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh, and various civil society justice initiatives in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. Bina also led research on reparations for victims of sexual violence in Bangladesh with BLAST. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award, Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, United States in 2020 and the Ann Tickner Award from the International Studies Association (ISA) in 2022.



(Waskam) Emelda Davis, Councillor of the City of Sydney Council

(Waskam) Emelda Davis is the first Black woman elected to serve on the City of Sydney Council in its 180-year history as is a representative on the Clover Moore Independent Team. Emelda is also second generation born Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI), a descendant of our Pacific slave trade to NSW in 1847. Emelda has worked effectively across corporate and grassroots sectors including advisor to State, Federal and Commonwealth Government agencies on culturally specific indigenous knowledges.






In serving the city, Emelda is Deputy Chair of Resilient Communities and Economy Committee, the Lord Mayor’s delegate on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, the Lord Mayor’s delegate on the Multicultural Advisory Panel, the Alternate Chair of the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee.

As a founder of ASSI - Port Jackson, Emelda’s achievements include 2020-CALD Panel for Women’s Business, Women for Election Australia Ambassador, awarded NSW Parliament Recognition Statement by the Member for Sydney and Legislative Assembly-Mr. Alex Greenwich, NSW Premiers Multicultural Community-Settlement Services International - Human Rights Award. Emelda is also the first ASSI person to complete an ASSI oral history thesis ‘Children of the Sugar Slaves; Black and Resilient.’ Recipient of 2017 Rotary Inspirational Woman, Ultimo PS Sydney Inspirational Wall Medal, 2016-NSW Women of the Year (Sydney Local), 2015- NSW Council for Pacific Communities ‘Stronger Communities Award’ and 2022 International Council on Monuments and Sites ‘Caring for Country’ committee award.

Professor Shihan de Silva, Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Senior Associate at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge and former Member and Rapporteur of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project

Professor Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya, FRAS, a Senior Associate (Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge), a Senior Research Fellow (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London), a Collaborative Researcher (University of Colombo). She was a Visiting Professor (Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan) and a Visiting Fellow (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam). She is a winner of the Rama Watamull Collaborative Lecture Series award from the Center for South Asian Studies & Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity Award (University of Hawaii). Her research explores migration, commerce and cultural exchange in the Indian Ocean; African, Malay and Portuguese diasporas within a historical, linguistic and ethnomusicological frame. Among her book publications are African Identity in Asia, African Diaspora in Asian Trade Routes and Cultural Memories, The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean, Uncovering the History of Africans in Asia, Portuguese in the East and Music of Afro-Asians. She has also produced four ethnographic films including “Indian Ocean Memories: African Migrations”. She is a former Member and Rapporteur of the UNESCO Slave Route Project (Paris) and currently, is an Expert on People of



<p>African descent in Asia for the UNOHCHR (Geneva). She is also the Chair of the National Scientific Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS (Sri Lanka) and an Expert Member of the International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS.</p>	
<p>Mr Mohammed Elnaiem, PhD candidate, Cambridge University</p>	
<p>Mohammed Elnaiem is the director of the Decolonial Centre, a new organisation in the UK, which engages in political education on colonialism, anti-colonialism and decoloniality. He was active in the struggle for democracy in Sudan, is passionate about Black Lives Matter, and is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.</p>	
<p>Mr Mario Gomez, Executive Director at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka</p>	
<p>Mario Gomez is the Executive Director at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, an independent think-tank in Sri Lanka, and an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore. He has worked in academia, human rights, and peace building, and previously taught constitutional law and administrative law at the University of Colombo. Recent publications include 'Prosecuting Religious Violence in Sri Lanka', 'Advancing Economic and Social Rights through National Human Rights Institutions', 'The Right to Information and Transformative Development Outcomes', 'The Politics of Dealing with the Past in Deeply Divided Sri Lanka', 'The Death Penalty in Sri Lanka: Hanging by a Thread', 'Constitutional Change and Institutional Resilience in Sri Lanka', 'Mixing Writs with Rights: The Implications for Public Law in Sri Lanka', 'Constitutional Struggle in Sri Lanka', 'Women, Gender, and the Constitution in Sri Lanka', 'The Failure of Transformative Constitution-Making In Sri Lanka', and the 'Law and Politics of Constitutional Amendment in Sri Lanka'.</p>	
<p>Ms Antje Missbach, Professor, Bielefeld University</p>	
<p>Antje Missbach is a Professor of Sociology at Bielefeld University, Germany, specializing in global and transnational migration and mobility. She is the author of <i>Separatist conflict in Indonesia: The long-distance politics of the Acehnese diaspora</i> (Routledge, 2012) and <i>Troubled Transit: Asylum seekers stuck in Indonesia</i> (ISEAS, 2015), and co-author of <i>Indonesia: State and Society in Transition</i> (Lynne Rienner, 2019). Her latest book, <i>The Criminalisation of People Smuggling in Indonesia and Australia: Asylum out of Reach</i>, was published in 2022 (Routledge).</p>	
<p>Dr. Oussouby Sacko, Professor of Architecture at the Human Environmental Design Program, Faculty of Design, and the Graduate School of Design (Architecture), Kyoto Seika University</p>	

Born in Mali, West Africa, Dr. Oussouby SACKO is Professor of Architecture at the Human Environmental Design Program, Faculty of Design, and the Graduate School of Design (Architecture) in Kyoto Seika University. He got a Bachelor degree from South-East University (Dongnan Daxue), Nanjing China, and got a Master degree and a Doctor Degree of Engineering in the field of Architecture and Architecture Planning from the Graduate School of Engineering at Kyoto University, Japan. He has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Seika University from April 2013 to March 2017, and President of Kyoto Seika University from April 2018 to March 2022. Since April 2022, along with his title as the Vice President of the Japan Association for the World Expo 2025 and is also serving as the Director of Integrated Research Institute (which covers all research centers and laboratories of Kyoto Seika University) and Director of the Center for Contemporary African-Asian Contemporary Cultural Studies (CAACCS). He has recently conducted field research in Japan, China, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania’s historical cities, Burkina Faso, and Niger.



Mr Anthony Unor, Ph.D. in International Development Studies, Chulalongkorn University

Mr. Anthony Ukam Unor has resided in Thailand for over two decades, blending his roles as an educator, community leader, and student. His impactful engagement with Thai communities, particularly as an English teacher in local and city schools, underscores his deep understanding of the culture and experiences of people of African descent in Thailand.

Anthony is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University, focusing on African Migration to Thailand, including the racism, discrimination, and integration experiences of Black African migrants in Thailand. He has served as the planning committee chairman of Nigeria Diaspora Organization, Thailand chapter, and currently holds key positions such as Vice President of the Nigerian community and Teachers Union in Thailand, President of the Akwa-Cross Association of Nigerians, and African Volunteers Coordinator to the Association of Thai Africa Relations. Anthony's research extends beyond Thailand, including a study on development and social inequality among climate migrants in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He also participated in a Winter School program in Bangkok and Malaysia, exploring the experiences of Southeast Asian migrants, including African migrants in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, in December 2023.



PANEL DISCUSSION 3: DEVELOPMENT – Addressing challenges in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Mr Hongjiang Huang, Member of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent



Mr. HUANG Hongjiang is a member of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. He is keen to promote and protect the rights of people of African descent through his active role in the Forum and engagement with representatives from Member States, CSOs, academia etc. He stands firm in fighting against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia against people of African descent and calls for enhanced efforts in addressing reparation, criminal justice, poverty reduction, quality education and health care for people of African descent. In his more than 25 years of career being a Chinese diplomat, he has established rich experience in the areas of peacekeeping, peace-building and humanitarian affairs as he used to work closely with partners in relevant countries in promoting peace, stability and development including Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Haiti. He is committed to working towards the implementation of the DDPA and the International Decade for People of African descent so as to ensure equality, dignity, justice and development for African people and people of African descent. Mr. Huang holds a MA Degree in International Law from China Foreign Affairs University and a BA Degree in English Language and Literature from Xiamen University.



Mr Phillip Binondo, Human rights advocate and founding member of the African Diaspora Insight and the African/American Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines.



Phillip Binondo is a human rights advocate with over a decade of experience in the intersections of education, sustainable development and human rights. He is a former UN OHCHR fellow for people of African descent and a founding member of the African Diaspora Insight and the African/American Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines (AFCAAP). He also taught International Relations and Human Rights at De La Salle University-Manila. Currently, he is the Community Relations and Corporate Communications Manager at JE Hydro & Bio-energy Corp.



Ms Shine Choi, Senior Lecturer, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University

Shine Choi teaches Political Theory and International Relations at Massey University, Aotearoa New Zealand. Her research has focused on how an illiberal state like North Korea creates the international as a space of politics. Other research interest areas include non-western IR theory with regional foci on Korea, inter-Asia and Afro-Asian nexus; intercultural relations; Third World diplomacy; postcolonial and feminist theories; visuality and aesthetics; and critical/creative methods. Her most recent publications include 'Rethinking global nuclear politics, rethinking feminism' in International Affairs (2022, with C Eschle) and Ripping, Cutting, Stitching: Feminist Knowledge Destruction and Creation in Global Politics in Rowman and Littlefield (2023, with Särmä et al). She co-edits the book series, Creative



<p>Interventions in Global Politics with Rowman and Littlefield, and International Feminist Journal of Politics.</p>	
<p>Ms Dahlia Ducreay, Current Head of the International Department at the Silk Road Youth Forum</p>	
<p>Ms. Dahlia A Ducreay is a seasoned international relations professional from the Commonwealth of Dominica with a decade of practical experience in the People’s Republic of China with nearly 16 years on the global stage. Specializing in strategic relations and partnerships, she possesses proficiency in English, Mandarin, and a strong foundation in French, enabling adept navigation of international landscapes and engagement with high-level stakeholders. Her career is distinguished by leadership roles, international communication, research, and policy analysis.</p> <p>Currently, Ms. Ducreay holds the position of Head of the International Department at the Silk Road Youth Forum, a non-governmental organization dedicated to youth development within the Belt and Road Initiative. Noteworthy achievements have been realized during her career, particularly in the challenging year of 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ducreay exhibited exceptional risk management leadership for international staff across China, contributing to an impressive employee retention rate at one of China’s largest privately-owned education development organizations. She showcased strategic acumen and a profound commitment to the well-being of the team during a sensitive period. In recognition of these accomplishments, Ms. Ducreay was honored as the Most Influential Person of African Descent in the Humanitarian and Education field by MIPAD 100 at the United Nations in New York, underscoring her significant impact on humanitarian efforts, education, and human capital development, and reinforcing her position as a thought leader in the international community.</p>	
<p>Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development</p>	
<p>Bonny Ibhawoh is Professor and Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights at McMaster University, Canada. He is a legal historian who has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Previously, he was a Human Rights Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, New York, and Research Fellow at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen. His research expertise includes global human rights history, peace/conflict studies and transitional/restorative justice studies. Dr. Ibhawoh has held several university academic and administrative positions including: Director of the Centre for Peace Studies, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and Acting Associate Vice-President (Research) at McMaster University. He has authored several books on human rights, including Imperial Justice (Oxford University Press) and Human Rights in Africa (Cambridge University Press). Dr. Ibhawoh is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.</p>	

Ms Ashwini K.P., Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism

Ms. Ashwini K.P. is the sixth Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. She was appointed by the Human Rights Council in October 2022 and took up her functions as Special Rapporteur on 1 November 2022.

Ms. Ashwini K.P. was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at St. Joseph's College in India. She is also a co-founder of Zariya: Women's Alliance for Dignity and Equality. As part of her research and activism, she has focused on policies related to marginalised communities, in particular to support their livelihood and access to education. Ms. Ashwini K.P. has represented Indian Dalit women in various civil society groups helping them to ensure that women from marginalised communities are empowered and are in decision-making roles in activism and mainstream social movements.

Ms. Ashwini K.P. has previously worked as a Researcher on the Project Mukti, as a Senior Campaigner on Business and Human Rights with Amnesty International India, as a guest faculty member of the Department of Political Science at Mount Carmel College, and as a Lecturer of the Department of Political Science of St. Joseph's College in India. Ms. Ashwini K.P. has authored several publications on the issues of discrimination, including "International Dimension of Caste-Based Discrimination: A Global Perspective of Dalit Human Rights, Vol. 7 Issue, 6 June, 2021" and "Mapping Social Exclusion in Higher Education: Experiences of Dalit students" (2017), in Ambrose Pinto (ed.) Politics of Caste Dynamics, ISBN: 978-93-86516-15-2, Bangalore, ATC Publishers".

Ms. Ashwini K.P. earned her Bachelor's Degree in History, Economics and Political Science from Mount Carmel College. She holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from St. Joseph's College and an MPhil and Ph.D. in South Asian Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



Ms Eunice Kwalteng, Coordinator of Publication and External Relations and of the Program for African Diaspora and Descents in Japan, Africa Japan Forum

Eunice Kwalteng is a Ghanaian born and raised in Japan, Gunma prefecture. She graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Arts (Language and Area Studies). She lived most of her life in Japan as an undocumented immigrant, or "Karihomensha" (provisional release). After being granted a visa in April 2023, she started an Internship program at Africa Japan Forum and is currently working as the Coordinator of Publication and External Relations and Coordinator of the Program for African Diaspora and Descents in Japan. She aims to provide an opportunity for children and youths with African roots to embrace their cultural identity and backgrounds through various events and workshops.

