H.E. MS. MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA GARCÉS

PRESIDENT OF THE 73RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés has more than 20 years of multilateral experience in international negotiations, peace, security, defence, disarmament, human rights, indigenous peoples, gender equality, sustainable development, environment, biodiversity, climate change and multilateral cooperation. She has served Ecuador as Minister of Foreign Affairs (twice), Minister of National Defence, and Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage. In those capacities she coordinated the Sectorial Council on Foreign Policy and Promotion, which includes the Ministries of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, Foreign Trade, and the Environment. Ms. Espinosa Garcés was Chair of the Group of 77 and China until January 2018, and also served as Chair of the Andean Community. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she promoted the adoption of the resolution presented by Ecuador entitled “Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication”. She was a chief negotiator at the sixteenth and seventeenth Conferences of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where she facilitated the adoption of key elements in the outcome document entitled “The future we want”. As Minister of National Defence of Ecuador, Ms. Espinosa Garcés participated in debates on women, peace and security, and promoted the creation of the South American Defence School of the Union of South American Nations, among other initiatives. In 2008, she was the first woman to become Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York. During that posting, she cofacilitated the Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. She also led efforts at the global level towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, she led and supported various negotiation processes at the Human Rights Council. She chaired the work of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Geneva, and at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP 21) on Climate Change in Paris. Ms. Espinosa Garcés was Special Adviser to the President of the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution of Ecuador in 2008 and Regional Director (South America) and Adviser on Biodiversity (Geneva) at the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

MR. MAHER NASSER / @MAHERNASSERUN

DIRECTOR, OUTREACH DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Maher Nasser has over 30 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in various capacities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna and New York. In the last six years, Mr. Nasser was appointed three times as Acting Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information (April to August 2012, August 2014 to February 2015, and most recently as Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications from 1 April to 31 August 2017). Mr. Nasser took up his current position as Director of DPI’s Outreach Division in February 2011. He first joined DPI in January 2006 as Director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo. Before joining DPI, Mr. Nasser worked in various positions with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza, Jerusalem, Vienna, Amman and New York. From 1992 to 1994, he worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Nasser worked with two Jerusalem-based NGOs focusing on development and human rights. Mr. Nasser also attended the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid in October 1991 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations in Washington DC as the personal assistant to Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Head of the Palestinian Negotiating Team.

Maher Nasser holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bir Zeit University in Palestine and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Warwick in the UK. He is married with three children. An occasional runner, he completed the New York City Marathon in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
UPCOMING EVENTS

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE 2019 CONFERENCE

JOIN DPI/NGO TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING 2019 CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE LATEST UPDATES ON:

- Conference Theme
- Conference Planning
- Conference Chair
- A Call for Planning Committees and Volunteers

13 DECEMBER 2018 | 11 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 2 | UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Mandatory RSVP at bit.ly/13DecBriefing

Annual Review opened 1 December 2018 and will remain open until 20 January 2019.

THE 68TH UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

SAVE THE DATE 26-28 AUGUST 2019 #UNNGO2019

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