Ms. Hawa Diallo, Chief of Unit, Civil Society, Department of Global Communications. Ms. Diallo has extensive United Nations experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with a particular emphasis on youth and women’s organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1987 in the Department of Public Information and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and as a Partners and Youth Officer.

H.E. Ms. Victoria Mangay Sulimani is Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative for Political Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. Previously, she was Deputy Director in the International and Legal Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, and prior to that was a Counselor in the Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN. She has over 24 years of experience in diplomacy, international affairs and administration, as an official delegate and active participant at international conferences and seminars organized by the United Nations, African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree holds honors from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone and a Master’s Degree in Administrative Science, Diplomacy and International Relations from Fairleigh Dickinson University, USA. Her many fields of expertise, that have earned awards and merit certificates, are on the topics of human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, trans-national security issues, global political and economic issues, international economic diplomacy, state protocol and the conduct of elections in international organizations.

Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro, Special Representative to the UN and Director of the ILO Office for the United Nations, based in New York, since the 1st of February 2016. He is the leading ILO official responsible for issues related to the world of work at the UN. His portfolio includes the areas of employment and decent work, social protection, labour migration, youth employment, child and forced labour, women economic empowerment, labour rights and the future of work. Mr. Pinheiro was the ILO lead negotiator in the UN deliberations on the post 2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that led to adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. He was instrumental in advancing Decent Work in the SDGs and in particular in shaping the SDG 8 on Decent Work and Inclusive Growth. Before moving to New York, Mr. Pinheiro worked as part of the ILO G20 Sherpa Team and was executive secretary of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, headed by Ms. Michele Bachelet, which led to the adoption of the ILO recommendation on social protection floors. Prior to joining ILO, Mr Pinheiro was National Secretary for Social Security of Brazil and Vice Minister for Social Security (1999–2002) responsible for the design and implementation of Brazilian pension reform, including measures to increase coverage and strengthen the social protection system. Mr. Pinheiro is an Economist and Political Scientist and was trained in a number of advanced execute courses on Pensions Schemes (Harvard International Institute for Development, Cambridge); Leadership in the Public Sector (Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge) and Global Management and Leadership programmes (University of Chicago Booth School of Business nd Instituto the Empresa - IE).
Mr. Roy Maconachie is a Reader in International Development in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. His research in Sub-Saharan Africa explores the social, political and economic aspects of natural resource management, and their relationships to wider societal change. Much of his recent work has had a particular focus on the extractive industries, livelihood change and social conflict in West Africa. He has been carrying out field-based research in Sierra Leone for over 15 years, and has spent much of this time working with artisanal diamond and gold miners.

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Ms. Riefqah Jappie is the International Trade Centre’s (ITC) Representative to the United Nations in New York since January 2017. ITC is the joint development agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Ms. Jappie has 15 years experience in international trade, economic development and public sector management. Prior to her current role, Ms. Jappie headed ITC’s planning and performance team, driving strategic and operational planning, performance management, corporate reporting, and project management support. Before joining ITC, Ms. Jappie held several positions in South Africa including a Director position with the Western Cape government for the preparations of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. She began her career as Trade Economist for the Western Cape Trade and Investment Promotion Agency, Wesgro. Ms. Jappie holds degrees in Economics and Arts from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, as well as an Executive Master of Public Administration from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany. Besides her native English and Afrikaans, Ms. Jappie also speaks French and Spanish.

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Mr. Anthony Bebbingtom is the Milton P. and Alice C. Higgins Professor of Environment and Society in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, USA. He was previously Laureate Professor at the School of Geography, University of Melbourne, Australia and Professor at the University of Manchester, UK. Tony’s work addresses the political ecology of rural change with a particular focus on extractive industries and socio-environmental conflicts, social movements, indigenous organizations, and livelihoods. Tony is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, and has held fellowships from the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, the Free University and Ibero-American Institute of Berlin, the UK Economic and Social Research Council, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, the Fulbright Commission and the Inter-American Foundation.

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As the founder and CEO of Consensas, Mr. Ryan Taylor, MDes (Candidate), focuses on solving global supply chains’ “first-mile problem.” In the early aughts, Taylor applied his technology background to the unlikely trade of goldsmithing. His Fair Trade Jewellery Co. developed responsible sourcing standards that surpassed those of top luxury brands. Over a decade later, FTJCo continues to earn high praise, including recognition in Human Rights Watch’s 2018 report “The Hidden Cost of Jewellery.” Consensas marks the expansion of Taylor’s commitment to ethical procurement. Striking a successful partnership with Nobel-Prize nominee IMPACT (formerly Partnership Africa Canada), Taylor’s guiding the world’s first legal exports of artisanal small-scale mining gold from the conflict-affected Democratic Republic of Congo. Consensas’ validated, verified data platform supports all transactions and stages of this complex process - from mine to market. A believer in practice-based systems design, data rights, and empowering economies with information, Taylor is eager to see this success replicated in new markets with different materials. He envisions that in the years ahead Consensas’ unique systems approach and collaborative partnerships will enable flourishing economies to properly benefit from resource exploitation.

Dr. Mamadou Barry, Senior Mining Specialist at the Energy and Extractives Global Practice of the World Bank. Dr. Barry has over 25 years of experience in research, consulting and technical assistance to the extractive industries. He currently leads the TA work covering artisanal and small-scale mining, and he is a team leader World Bank mining support programs covering the Africa and South East Asia regions. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) where he underwrote political risk insurance for extractive industries projects in various parts of the world. Mamadou holds a minerals engineering degree from the Institute of Mines and Geology of Boké (Guinea), an economic diploma from the Economics Institute of the University of Colorado, and a Master of Science and a Ph.D. from the Colorado School of Mines with a focus on Mineral Economics and Finance.

Ms. Sherrill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo was Chair of the 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. She represents two international organizations at the United Nations. She is President of the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations and Vice President of Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional, where she has been in charge of its international programmes since 1976. Ms. Kazan has been representing a Mexican press organization for many years and is one of the founding members of the Turkish American Journalist Association, based in New York. Ms. Kazan has previously served on the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and was re-elected to the Committee this year. She has been a member of the Planning Committee for several DPI/NGO Annual Conferences at the United Nations Headquarters and has acted as Media Chair and Fund-raising Chair for previous Conferences. In addition to her work with the United Nations, Ms. Kazan has worked extensively in the private sector. Ms. Kazan is President for Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, a partnership between the New York City Park’s Department, and the Park’s Katherine Hepburn Garden. Sherrill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo is a national of the United States.
After his MBA and a first career in international banking, Mr. Matthieu Cognac joined international development organizations, first in microfinance in Asia and in Latin America. In 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami brought him to the ILO in Indonesia where he managed several youth employment projects; partnering with Government officials and working with local communities to enhance economic growth and provide young people with the education and skills training they needed to enter the labour market. His work led to job creation for farmers and traders with the inauguration of the first international flights to Banda Aceh; the expansion of financial cooperative networks and the launch of green jobs initiatives. He then joined the ILO regional office for Asia and the Pacific in capacity of regional Youth Employment Specialist, where he advised Governments, employers and workers organizations on opportunities to create decent jobs. He helped design UN joint programmes, implement National Action Plans and launch awareness raising campaigns. In January 2019, Matthieu joined the ILO office in New York. While youth remains an important part of his portfolio, his main role is to liaise with the UN and to collaborate on decent work initiatives.