

Speakers Bios



Sweden
Isabella Lövin

H.E. Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden and co-Chair of the International Dialogue. Isabella Lövin is currently Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden.

Isabella Lövin is currently Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden. Her main areas of responsibility are development cooperation and global development policy. Before being appointed Minister, she was an elected member of the European Parliament between 2009 and 2014, and served as member of the delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament (2009-2012) and as a member of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly from 2012-2014.

She is a leading member of the Greens in the Fisheries and Development Committees, involved in the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. She is also special rapporteur on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy and the role of the EU in fighting illegal fisheries globally. Until 2009, she was an acclaimed journalist and author.

She has received various prizes for her work, such as the Georg and Greta Borgström Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry for championing activities related to the world's population and food supply, and the Fair Politician of the Year Award from Fair Politics EU for her efforts to make the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy more fair towards developing countries.

She lives in Stockholm and is married with children.



Helder Lopes, Vice Minister of Finance

H.E. Mr. Helder Lopes was sworn in as the Vice Minister of Finance under the VI Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste in February 2015. Having graduated from the Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics, he completed his Masters' studies at Michigan State University in 2010. Between 2011 and 2015, Lopes served as the Resident Economic Advisor and the Chief Economist within the Economic Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Finance. His main responsibility was to provide economic policy advice to the Ministry of Finance. At the same time, Mr. Lopes acted as Coordinator of the Economic Policy Directorate; he led, managed, coordinated and supervised the day-to-day work of the Directorate. Lopes has also worked extensively with international organizations. From 2013 to 2015, he was the focal point of the Ministry of Finance for the CPLP, the ASEAN, the Special Economic Zones and the UN-ESCAP. Lopes has co-authored more than 25 policy briefs on economics and public finance.



United Nations
H.E. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

On 2 March 2012, Jan Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He took office as Deputy Secretary-General on 1 July 2012.

Mr. Eliasson was from 2007-2008 the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur. Prior to this, Jan Eliasson served as President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the US from September 2000 until July 2005. In March 2006, Mr. Eliasson was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden and served in this capacity until the elections in the fall of 2006.

Mr. Eliasson was the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and was involved in operations in Africa and the Balkans. He took initiatives on landmines, conflict prevention and humanitarian action. 1980-1986, Mr. Eliasson was part of the UN mediation missions in the war between Iran and Iraq, headed by former Prime Minister Olof Palme. In 1993-94 Mr. Eliasson served as mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He has been a Visiting Professor at Uppsala University and Gothenburg University in Sweden, lecturing on mediation, conflict resolution and UN reform.

Mr. Eliasson was born on 17 September 1940 in Goteborg, Sweden. He graduated from the Swedish Naval Academy in 1962, earned a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration in 1965, and is married

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with 3 children.



Ruth Jacoby, Director General for International Development Cooperation Ministry for Foreign Affairs Stockholm

Ruth Jacoby is the Director-General for Development Cooperation, a position she has held already once before. She has most recently been the Swedish Ambassador to Germany, and to Italy, before returning to this current position. Earlier positions include Ambassador for Economic and Social Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations. During that period, from 1999 to 2002, she served as Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development at the Monterrey Conference, and was instrumental in bringing the negotiations of the Monterrey Consensus to a successful conclusion. 1994 to 1997 Ms. Jacoby was Executive Director of the World Bank representing Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. She also served for four years at the Swedish Delegation to the OECD in Paris. Ms. Jacoby received her degrees from the University of Uppsala, Sweden.



**Switzerland
Didier Burkhalter, Minister, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland**

Didier Burkhalter, born on 17 April 1960, grew up in the village of Auvernier on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel. He obtained a degree in economics from the University of Neuchâtel. Before moving into politics, he held a number of posts in the academic world and the private sector. Mr. Burkhalter is married with three children.

In 1985, Mr. Burkhalter joined the Radical Democratic Party FDP (now the Liberal Democratic Party). He was secretary of the Neuchâtel branch of the party, before becoming the full-time secretary for French-speaking Switzerland within the FDP Switzerland. He served as a member

of the communal parliament of Hauterive in the canton of Neuchâtel und was a member of the cantonal parliament. In 1991 he was elected to the executive (town council) of Neuchâtel, which he chaired for three legislative periods (1994/1995, 1998/1999, 2001/2002). He remained a member of the council until 2005.

In 2003 Mr. Burkhalter was elected to the National Council, and to the Council of States in 2007. During this time he served on a number of parliamentary committees and was also a member of the Swiss delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Didier Burkhalter was elected to the Federal Council on 16 September 2009 and appointed as the head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA), a post he held until 31 December 2011. Burkhalter has been head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

In 2014 Mr. Burkhalter assumed the presidency of the Swiss Confederation and the chairmanship of the OSCE.



**Somali
H.E. Abdirahman Aynte, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation**

Abdirahman Yusuf Ali Aynte has served as the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation for the Somalian government since January 2015. Prior to taking office, he founded the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) in Mogadishu, Somalia, serving also as Executive Director. He is an award-winning journalist with more than 10 years of experience, having worked with Al Jazeera English as a Senior News Editor and producer, following positions within the BBC and VOA. As a published writer, Aynte's articles have been featured in the New York Times, Foreign Affairs and African Arguments. Aynte has advised the United Nations, AMISOM and a number of international organisations on Somalia. He holds a B.A. in journalism and political science as well as an M.A. in government from John Hopkins University.



**Belgium
H.E. Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services**

Alexander De Croo is Deputy Prime Minister for Open VLD and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services in the Michel I Government of the Kingdom of Belgium.

A graduate in Business Engineering, De Croo completed an MBA at the Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University) in Chicago (United States), in 2004. Between 1999 and 2006, he was employed as a strategy consultant at The Boston Consulting Group. In 2009, he took the step from the business world into a political career, and in November 2012 took the oath as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Pensions in the presence of H.M. King Albert II. Since 2014, as Minister of Development Cooperation, he has focused on strengthening human rights and promoting local economic growth in the partner countries. The Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services portfolio focuses on the maximisation of the economic potential of the digital economy.



Mustafa Aria, Director of Aid Management, Ministry of Finance, Afghanistan

Mustafa Aria is the Director of Aid Management at the Ministry of Finance, Government of Afghanistan. He received his BA from California State University, East Bay in Economics and International Development. He is a development professional and has worked with the Afghan Government and numerous international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). In his current capacity as the Director of Aid Management, Mr. Aria is responsible for managing and coordinating international development assistance provided to Afghanistan and

leads the dialogue on development cooperation with all development partners in the country. He has conducted several research projects and is the co-author of the Third Human Development Report on Afghanistan. Mr. Aria is an active contributor to global dialogue on development cooperation; he is the co-chair of the Implementation Working Group of the International Dialogue on Peace Building and State Building and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation representing the g7+ group of fragile countries.



Germany

Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary

Thomas Silberhorn was appointed Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in February 2014. Prior to this appointment, he was Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Parliament (Bundestag).

The focus of his work is on core development issues for the future: human rights and good governance, education, health, poverty reduction, water supply and sanitation, energy and resources. Mr Silberhorn also concerns himself with globalisation and trade issues and the new agenda for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He is Germany's Governor at the African Development Bank. And he is responsible for bilateral development cooperation with the continent of Africa. This also entails playing a major role in shaping the German government's strategy for the 54 countries of Africa. Another regional focus of his work is on the countries of the Near and Middle East.

Thomas Silberhorn was born on 12 November 1968 in Kemmern, Germany; he is married with two children. He has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 2002, representing the constituency of Bamberg-Forchheim. At the parliamentary elections in 2013, he won 52.2 per cent of the vote in his constituency.



Alfeine Siti Sofiat Tadjiddine, General Commissioner of Plan, the Comoros Islands

Mrs Alfeine Siti Sofiat born Tadjiddine, 31 December 1959 is the Commissioner General of Plan of Union of the Comoros. Siti Sofiat was born in Moroni. In 1991, she married Alfeine Mohamed with whom he had three children. She began a successful career in Moroni as responsible for control of state companies from 1988 to 1995. After having directed a project to support the Ministry of Finance to the implementation of EU funded projects; she left the Comoros in 2001 for the Indian Ocean Commission in Mauritius where she supports the Secretariat of the IOC as a technical assistant in the implementation of EDF regional projects. Back in Comoros after a stint at the administration of the Island of Ngazidja as Commissioner of Plan from December 2003 Plan to April 2004, she was appointed Commissioner General of Plan in May 2007. During her career she has had to follow training in various institutions including the IAP in Paris in 1988, and the Institute for Monetary Fund in Washington in 1984 and the procedures of many donors including the World Bank and the European Union.



Deqa Yasin Haji Yusuf, Operations Manager, Somalia

Deqa Yasin, is the Operations Manager at IIDA Women's Development Organization, one of the largest grass roots civil society based organizations in Somalia working on women's empowerment, human rights, peace building and conflict resolution issues. She is a renowned conflict resolution & crises management expert and has a keen sense of social justice and a belief that diverse communities can co-exist peacefully under a political framework that protects the rights of the vulnerable and minorities.

Born in Somalia and raised in Italy and Canada, Deqa knows much about

conflict, civil strife and human displacement because her entire adult life was spent as an exile and refugee as a result of civil war and political instability in her country, Somalia. Since 2013, she has represented IIDA as member of the Oversight Board Committee in the Special Financing Facility (SFF) Committee of the Ministry of Finance. Deqa Yasin, as a representative of Somali civil society organisations has, from its inception, participated in the policy deliberations leading to the New Deal Compact between the Somali government and the international donor community, and still serves to sit on the Peace and State Building (PSG's) of the New Deal program. She is also the National Civil Society representative at the National Consultative Forum on the Electoral model for 2016.



United Kingdom

Desmond Swayne, Minister of State for International Development

Minister of State for International Development, Desmond Swayne was born in 1956 and is a graduate of St Andrews University in Scotland. He worked as an Economics teacher from 1981 to 1987 and as a manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland from 1987 to 1997, following which he was elected to Parliament for the New Forest West constituency. Having served in Iraq as a Territorial Army Officer in 2003, he contributed a popular audio diary to BBC Radio Four. Following the election of David Cameron as leader of the Conservative Party in December 2005, Desmond was appointed as his Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS). He maintained his role as PPS in government until appointed as Government Whip in September 2012. Within the British Department for International Development (DFID), Swayne leads on the following issues (non-exhaustive): Middle East and North Africa, conflict, security, governance, anti-corruption and economic development (private sector, trade and International Financial Institutions).



USA
Eric Postel, Assistant Administrator, USAID

Eric G. Postel was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2011 as Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Environment. Since May 2015, he has also served concurrently as Associate Administrator. Mr. Postel brings to the position more than 25 years of private sector experience working in emerging markets.

Mr. Postel also serves as the Agency's coordinator for the government-wide Partnership for Growth program and the "Plus 1" (alternate director) to the Millennium Challenge Corporation. From October 2014 to December 2015, he also served as the Assistant to the Administrator to Africa.

Previously, Mr. Postel worked as a vice president at Citibank Tokyo, where he arranged financing for borrowers on four continents. This work included arranging the first ever financing for new Boeing aircraft in Zimbabwe, serving as Bangladesh's first-ever financial advisor and arranging India's first-ever Japanese tax-lease financing. In 1988, Mr. Postel devised a \$30 million financing for Jamaica International Telecommunications Limited (JAMINTEL) from Japanese investors which was the first international securitization of future receivables without a corporate guaranty - this structure has subsequently served as the basis of more than \$80 billion worth of financings.

Mr. Postel has a BA from Wesleyan University and an MBA from Stanford University. Between Wesleyan and Stanford, he served as a United States Naval Officer.



Helder Da Costa, Head, g7+ Secretariat

Helder da Costa, Ph.D., is the General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, serving 20 fragile and conflict-affected states. Dr. da Costa received his Ph.D. in Trade Policy from the University of Adelaide, South Australia in 2001. With 27 years of experience in development economics, agriculture, and aid effectiveness and management in Southeast Asia and Australia and New Zealand, Dr. da Costa has been entrusted to assume the responsibilities to coordinate the g7+ Secretariat to ensure its efficient day-to-day functioning. In addition, Dr. da Costa shall continue to provide advice to the g7+ Ministers of Finance on Aid Effectiveness and the New Deal.



Jens Wandel, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Management Services

Mr. Jens Wandel is the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Management Services at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mr. Wandel has had many years of distinguished service in UNDP. He served as Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), UNDP Bratislava, from August 2008 until April 2012. Prior to this, Mr. Wandel served in several management functions focusing on change initiatives, including as Director, Centre for Business Solutions, as Management Adviser and Project Director for the Work Improvement Tools Project and as a country-level coordinator of UNDP's New Horizon 2001 change management exercise.

Mr. Wandel has also held various leadership positions at the country level, including as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Turkmenistan; UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Kyrgyzstan; and UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, Viet Nam. Mr. Wandel

began his UNDP career as a junior professional officer in Western Samoa. Prior to joining UNDP, he served with DANIDA at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark.



Larry Attree, Head of Policy, Saferworld

With over 11 years' experience in conflict prevention and peacebuilding research, Larry is an internationally recognised policy expert on conflict issues, who has played a leading role in civil society inputs into global negotiations on peace-related themes including the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, the Busan Partnership and the post-2015 development framework. Larry's experience is focused on aid institutions and policies, peacebuilding and statebuilding, conflict sensitivity, arms control and violence reduction, reintegration of ex-combatants, and security and justice sector development. In his work with Saferworld's Europe, Asia and Conflict & Security teams since

2003, he has managed and contributed to a variety of projects on these themes. His experience includes project management, advocacy, advisory support, capacity building, conducting evaluations and published research and policy documents on issues such as: children and armed conflict, small arms control and disarmament, reintegration of youth and children, security and justice sector development, arms transfer controls and conflict sensitivity (including conflict analysis, programme design and evaluation). Aside from his various roles within Saferworld, Larry has worked on security and development with a variety of UN and other international agencies, NGOs and the corporate sector in Europe, the Pacific, Asia and Africa.