



Preparatory Roundtable on Solutions

2 December 2021

Profiles of panelists

Opening remarks

Ms. Gillian Triggs

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Ms. Gillian Triggs is UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. She was appointed on 9 August 2019. Triggs is a highly renowned expert in international law who has held a number of eminent appointments in service to human rights and the refugee cause, including most recently as the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Vice Chancellor's Fellow and Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne. Triggs oversees UNHCR's protection work for millions of refugees, internally displaced, stateless and other people of concern. An Australian national, she has previously held a number of leadership roles, including as President of the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal, Chair of the UN Independent Expert Panel of Inquiry into Abuse of Office and Harassment in UNAIDS, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney and as Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. Triggs has been closely associated with a number of not-for-profit organizations throughout her career, including most recently as Chair of Justice Connect, an organization that connects 10,000 lawyers to provide pro bono advice to asylum-seekers and others in need of legal support in Australia. She is also the author of many books and papers on public international law.

Moderators

Dr. Jerome Elie

International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Dr. Jerome Elie has developed his expertise in humanitarian affairs and forced displacement through over 15 years of experience within academia, the United Nations system, and the NGO community, at headquarters and field level. He has particularly worked with UNHCR in Yemen, Jordan, and Geneva. Since 2016, Dr. Elie has been working with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA),

currently as Head of Forced Migration, and serves as primary focal point on topics and issues related to internal and cross-border forced displacement. He leads ICVA's support to NGOs' global engagement in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, with a specific focus on protection and durable solutions. Dr. Elie holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and History from the University of Geneva. He has published in various journals and outlets, including the *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, *Global Governance*, *Humanitarian Alternatives*, and the *Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*.

Ms. Fiona Kendall

FCEI-Mediterranean Hope

Ms. Fiona Kendall, a lawyer by background, is European and Legal Affairs Advisor for the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI) where she works within its Mediterranean Hope migrant and refugee programme. Engaged in diverse projects, FCEI is one of the organisations responsible for pioneering the humanitarian corridors model, now replicated in several countries, and, since 2015, has managed corridors bringing over two thousand people safely to Italy. Fiona's primary area of focus is policy and advocacy in the field of safe passage, and she is currently engaged in developing a model of community sponsorship for Italy. Ms. Kendall is also Vice-Moderator of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), a body which is comprised of Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations from across Europe. CCME provides an ecumenical platform for exchanging on migration matters and coordinates faith-based initiatives in this field, enabling it to formulate common advocacy positions and act as interlocutor with the EU and other institutions for its members. Within this context, too, Fiona's primary area of focus is safe passage.

Ms. Manisha Thomas

Women's Refugee Commission

Ms. Manisha Thomas has been working on humanitarian issues for over 20 years and has been a consultant working with a range of organisations since October 2016. She is the part-time Geneva Representative of the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC). Previous positions included Coordinator of the Emergency Appeals Alliance (EAA), Interim Director of the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) in Palestine, and the Head of Secretariat for the Solutions Alliance. She also worked in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) secretariat and held various positions at the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), including supporting NGO coordination in Sudan and Haiti. She has an M.A. in International Affairs, Development Studies from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Speakers

Mr. John Dabi

Commission for Refugees Affairs, South Sudan

Mr. John Dabi has over 20 years of professional experience working with the Government, the United Nations, and international organizations. He holds a Master's Degree in Education (M.Ed) from the University of Malta; a Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Development: Managing Economic and Political Reforms in Developing Countries, from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and various certifications in the areas of education in emergencies, international humanitarian law, and leadership training. Mr. Dabi has been Deputy Commissioner for South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs, Republic of South Sudan, since 2013, where his work is closely coordinated with UNHCR on addressing refugee-related issues. He is also chairperson of South Sudan's National Technical Committee to develop a durable solutions strategy and action plan for refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, and host communities. Prior to his current post, he served as Executive Director for the Law Reform/Review Commission Republic of South Sudan from 2011. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Chief Emergency Education Officer with UNICEF in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. From 2006 to 2008, he served as Coordinator/Budget Sector advisor for the World Bank in Juba. Mr. Dabi also held the role of Alternative Out of School Advisor, CARE and Save the Children consortium, on a USAID-funded project to establish education System for South Sudan under Sudan Basic Education Program (SBEP) from 2002 to 2005. From 2000 to 2002, he served as an Education National Officer for UNICEF, and was involved in the demobilization of 3,000 child soldiers during Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS). He was the Project Director for the Jesuit Refugee Service in Diocese of Torit (DOT) Nimule Southern Sudan from 1997 to 2000, and previously the headmaster of the Alere Self Help Refugee Secondary School in Adjumani, Northern Uganda from 1994 to 1997.

Mr. Nhial Deng

Global Affairs Canada

Mr. Nhial Deng is a 22-year-old South Sudanese refugee, writer, and community activist. He spent 11 years in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp before moving to Canada on a student visa this year to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Global Studies and Digital Communications at Huron University College. As a community activist, Nhial uses his lived experiences as a refugee student to engage different actors in the humanitarian space and advocate for educational opportunities for young displaced people. He is a member of Canada's Refugee Education Council and the ATCR's Refugee Advisory Group and also sits on the Advisory Board of the East African Centre for Forced Migration and Displacement.

Mr. Evariste Hakizimana

Refugee/Returnee Representative

Mr. Evariste Hakizimana is the President of the association of returnees from Muyinga "ABAHUNGUTSE TWITEZE IMBERE". Born in Muyinga, Commune Giteranyi, Zone Masaka, Colline Kijumbura, in 1986, he took refuge in Rwanda (Mahama camp) in 2015 during the security disturbances at that time. He was repatriated on 19 November 2020. He currently resides in Muyinga, Commune Muyinga, Zone de Muyinga, Colline de Kinyota. Before leaving for Rwanda, he was a secondary school teacher. In Mahama camp, he worked as an animator from 2015 to 2017 with Plan International and from 2018 to 2020 with Save the Children.

Mr. Mark Hetfield

HIAS

Mr. Mark Hetfield is President and CEO of HIAS, which, for over 100 years, has been the Jewish community's international NGO for refugees. HIAS works with UNHCR and other partners across five continents, serving forcibly displaced persons through its core programmes to promote legal protection and durable solutions, prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), provide psycho-social assistance, and promote economic inclusion and empowerment. HIAS has extensive experience identifying and referring refugees in need of resettlement and working with partners to facilitate their reception and integration in the receiving country. Mr. Hetfield first joined HIAS in 1989 as a caseworker in Rome, Italy. He has worked for the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, and a large international law firm as an immigration attorney, and has held multiple roles at HIAS over the years. Since being named HIAS' President and CEO in 2013, Mark has led the transformation of the agency from helping refugees because they were Jewish to helping refugees because HIAS is Jewish. Mr. Hetfield is a frequent commentator and writer on refugee issues on television, radio, newspapers, and other media outlets. He holds both a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.

Mr. Sylvestre Kpan Lansson

Directorate for Refugees and Stateless Persons, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Sylvestre Lansson is the Legal Advisor of the Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (DAARA) - Ministry of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Diaspora of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Mr. Lansson has more than 15 years of professional experience in various fields, including five years in the humanitarian field. At the Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (SAARA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was from 2016 to 2018 Head of Office in the Southwest of Côte d'Ivoire. To this end, he was responsible for the supervision and implementation of protection activities for refugees and stateless persons or those at risk of statelessness in the region. Since 2019, Sylvestre has been working as a Legal Advisor at the Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides. In this capacity, he is in charge, on behalf of the Government, of the coordination and implementation of protection activities in favour of refugees and stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness and advises the Government on the management of humanitarian issues. Mr. Lansson holds a Master's degree in Ethics and Good Governance, option Humanitarian Law and Action, and a Master's degree in Private Law, option Judicial Careers. He also holds three certificates in Women's Law and International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law, and Refugee Law issued by the René CASSIN and Friedrich NAUMANN Foundations. Sylvestre is a trainer at the University of Human Rights (UDDH) of the National Council of Human Rights and a member of the National Commission of International Humanitarian Law of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Adrien Kambale Malemo

Malemo Food Company Ltd, Uganda

Mr. Adrien Kambale Malemo was born in 1962 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Originally from war-torn North Kivu Province, Adrien has been displaced several times over the last 25 years due to conflict in the eastern DRC and has been a refugee in Uganda since 2018. With a background in agronomy and banking and work experience with international NGOs and UN agencies, in 2012, he founded Malemo in his home village of Kiwanja – a small scale agribusiness investing in food production. The same year, Adrien formed the Agricultural Cooperative of Nord Kivu, a collective of 150 farmers focused on agricultural production. In 2018, he was forced to leave his village and seek safety in Beni, after receiving death threats from unknown individuals who had attempted to extort money from him. There he bought land to start cocoa farming. Not after long, armed men broke into Adrien's house at night with the intention to kill him, but he was able to escape. Fearing for his life, he sought refuge in Uganda in 2018 following a series of attacks on his relatives, co-workers, and neighbours. The Government of Uganda and UNHCR helped Adrien settle in Kyangwali, in western Uganda. After a period of illness and despair, he pulled himself together drawing on his passion for agronomy and skills in food production. In 2019, he founded Malemo Foods, a legally registered enterprise that produces enriched porridge flour. When Adrien's business is growing bigger, he hopes to obtain certification from Uganda's National Bureau of Standards to be able to widely supply his product in the market.

Mr. Abdon L. Mawere

Ministry of Home Affairs, Zambia

Mr. Abdon Mawere was born in 1968 and has spent most of his career as a civil servant serving in the Zambian Government in various capacities at home and abroad. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from the University of Zambia and a Master's degree in International Relations. He started his career as an officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998. Mr. Mawere has been Commissioner for Refugees in the Ministry of Home Affairs since 2016 where he presides over the affairs of refugees on behalf of the Zambian Government. Before becoming Commissioner, he worked as Director for Conferencing and Secretariat services at the Cabinet Office of the Republic of Zambia in Lusaka. Between 2006 and 2012, Mr. Mawere worked as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna and as First Secretary at the Zambia High Commission to South Africa in Pretoria.

Mr. Ryutaro Murotani

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Mr. Ryutaro Murotani is the Senior Director and Head of the Office for Peacebuilding at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He is now responsible for JICA's strategic planning and operations for peacebuilding, as well as the implementation of its strategy towards fragility, conflict, and violence, called "JICA's Global Agenda on Peacebuilding", emphasising a human security approach, strengthening of local institutions, and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, where he was responsible for JICA's strategic partnership relations with

other development partners. He also served as Senior Representative / Deputy Head of JICA's Rwanda Office, overseeing JICA's operations in Rwanda and Burundi as well as representing the development partners as co-chair in the sector working groups of water and sanitation and ICT in Rwanda. From 2009 to 2013, he was involved in extensive academic research on human security, peacebuilding, and state-building as a Research Fellow at the JICA Research Institute. His previous assignments included serving as First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Middle East Officer at the Loan Aid Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy (MPP) from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Mr. Andrés Alfonso Ramírez Silva

Mexican Commission for Assistance to Refugees

Mr. Ramírez Silva graduated from the Faculty of Economics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He holds a Master's degree in Rural Sociology from the Autonomus University of Chapingo, which he later directed and conducted Ph.D. studies in economics in the Post-Graduate Division of the Faculty of Economics of UNAM. Mr. Ramírez Silva is a UNHCR retiree. In UNHCR, he held several international positions for nearly three decades. He started off as a consultant in Mexico as an agricultural economist in 1987 in Campeche, Quintana Roo, and in 1990 as a Field Officer in Chiapas where he coordinated income-generating activities and was appointed as UNHCR's focal point during the negotiations between the Guatemalan refugees and the Guatemalan government. As part of UNHCR's Emergency roster team, in 1994 he performed as a field emergency officer in the Great Lakes region on the Tanzanian side of the border with Rwanda. Mr. Ramírez Silva served from October 1994 to August 1997 in Geneva as a food aid coordinator where he participated in several joint food assessment missions with WFP and relevant donors. Subsequently in 1997, he was appointed as UNHCR's Senior Liaison Officer in New York where he was the focal point with OCHA and the UN Secretariat. Mr. Ramírez Silva later served as the Office's Senior Regional Gender Advisor for the Americas in late 1999 and UNHCR's Representative in Costa Rica from 2001 to 2003. From 2004 to 2008, he was responsible for the regional Programme for Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru. He was then based in Quito and tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the enhanced registration exercise for Colombian refugees in Ecuador. Mr. Ramírez Silva later performed as UNHCR's Deputy Representative in Afghanistan in 2009 and finalized his UNHCR career in Brazil as UNHCR's Representative from 2010 to October 2015. Once he retired, he was invited in early 2016 for a short-term assignment as UNHCR's Regional Representative for Panama, Central America, Cuba, and Mexico. He has been the Head of Mexican Commission for Refugees within the Ministry of Interior since the beginning of the current administration in December 2018. In his current position, Mr. Ramírez Silva performed as the MIRPS President pro tempore in 2019. Mr. Ramírez Silva is also the author of several articles related to refugees and social and economic issues.

Mr. Luca Renda

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Luca Renda is Head of the Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility Team, at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Crisis Bureau, based in New York. He has over 20 years of experience working in a variety of development settings, in roles of increasing responsibility since his

first assignment with the United Nations as UN Volunteer in Liberia back in 1997. In UNDP, Luca has served as Program Manager in the Emergency Response Division (1999-2000) and Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (2000-2004). He has been the Deputy Resident Representative in Ecuador (2004-2007) and Honduras (2007-2012), and the Country Director in Lebanon (2012-2017), where he worked on the UN response to the Syrian crisis. Between 2017 and 2020, he undertook special assignments such as Head of the UN Crisis Management Unit in Dominica, coordinating UN and UNDP post-disaster recovery efforts; Resident Representative in Guyana; and Special Advisor for the UN transition in Haiti. Luca graduated in Political Science/International Relations at LUISS in 1994. He also holds a Master of Science in Development Studies from the London School of Economics. He is married with two children.

Ms. Sybill Schulz

Senate Administration for Integration Labour and Social Affairs, Germany

Ms. Sybill Schulz is a German lawyer and public health expert with additional certifications in marketing, diversity management, and coaching. She has over 20 years of professional experience in the education, health, and social sectors in Germany. In the past, she also worked in the field of development for the German Development Service in Ecuador. Her areas of expertise encompass project and organisational development, gender mainstreaming, inclusion and diversity, as well as management at the intersections of politics, administration, and civil society. Throughout her career, a central focus of her activities was the situation and particular needs of women, children, migrants, and displaced people. The acquisition of skilled professionals was another objective of her work. Since 2017, Sybill Schulz has been heading the Coordination Office for Refugee Management of the Senate Administration for Integration, Labour and Social Affairs of the city of Berlin in Germany. As part of this role, Ms. Schulz was instrumental in the conceptualisation of an independent complaints office for refugees and oversees quality management of refugee accommodation centres in Berlin. Ms. Schulz also works as a coach and acts as a government advisor, mentor at Humboldt University, and board member of the NGO Doctors of the World.

Mr. Michael Shotter

European Commission

Mr. Michael Shotter is a director in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, responsible for Migration, Protection and Visas. He was earlier head of the unit responsible for civil justice policy, having been a member of the European Commission's Legal Service over a number of years. Before his present post, he was Senior Legal Adviser in the private office of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and previously worked in the private office of Commissioner Viviane Reding. He has a degree in law from Cambridge University and a licence spéciale from the Institut d'Etudes européennes in Brussels.