



UNITED NATIONS

**Expert Group Meeting (EGM)**

**Integrating Sustainable Development and Peace in Post-conflict Situations: the Role of  
Public Institutions and Public Administration**

**Speakers' Bios**

**25 October 2017**

**New York, United States**

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## **Session 1: Key challenges in post-conflict governance while advancing sustainable development and peace**



### **Husam Al-Sharjabi Abdulhabib Saif**

Former Acting Minister of Finance and member of the Supreme Defense Council Yemen

Husam Al-Sharjabi is an ex-acting Minister of Finance and member of the Supreme Defense Council. He was a board member of the Central Bank of Yemen and the chairman of the National Commission on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing. He served as Vice Chairman of the Social Welfare Fund, member of the board of the Social Fund for Development and the General Corporation for Property Development and Investment (Shibam Holding), one of the largest State-Owned Enterprises in Yemen. Until 2014, Mr. Al-Sharjabi was the founder and Managing Partner of Apex Consulting, the largest consulting firm in Yemen.

He is a member of the presidium of the National Authority for Monitoring the Decisions of the National Dialogue Conference, which is chaired by the President of Yemen. During the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), he served as a member of the Consensus Committee in the NDC which was in charge of resolving conflict within and between working groups in the conference. The committee comprised 24 of the most prominent politicians (including the President of Yemen), youth activists, and civil society representatives in Yemen. He is the founder and President of Al-Watan Party, which is one of three new parties with significant representation in the institutions managing the transition process in Yemen.

Mr. Al-Sharjabi has a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Cornell University, USA and a MSc. in Information Systems Security from the University of Glasgow, UK.



### **Paige Arthur**

Deputy Director

NYU Center On International Cooperation (CIC)

Paige Arthur is the deputy director of New York University's Center on International Cooperation, also leading its work on peace and security. She came to CIC after being the principal of Public Action Research where she worked to bring evidence-based research to bear on international peacebuilding issues including conflict prevention and non-recurrence; protection of civilians; transitional justice; women, peace and security; and counter-terrorism and humanitarian engagement. Her experience includes close interaction with different UN entities working in the field of peacebuilding, as well as donors and non-governmental organizations; recently, her field work has focused on Tunisia and Morocco.

Working at the intersection of policy and research for the past 17 years, Dr. Arthur is a former deputy director of Institutional Development and the Research Unit at International Center for Transitional Justice as well as a former managing editor at Ethics & International Affairs journal. Her publications include two edited books, Identities in Transition: Challenges for Transitional

Justice in Divided Societies (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and Transitional Justice, International Assistance, and Civil Society: Missed Connections (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2017).

She holds a Ph.D. in contemporary history from University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University.

## **Session 2: Integration across sectors and among levels of government - challenges and approaches in post-conflict situations**



### **Jairo Acuña - Alfaro**

Policy Advisor, Responsive and Accountable Institutions Team, Governance and Peacebuilding Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Jairo Acuña-Alfaro is the Global Policy Advisor on Core Government Functions and Public Service Excellence at the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at UNDP New York since December 2014. Mr. Acuña-Alfaro has helped develop policies regarding implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions in several countries in the world. In particular, he has provided policy advice and interventions with Governments from the restoration of core government functions in fragile and conflict affected settings to the formulation and approval of the Civil Service Laws, the adoption, implementation and monitoring of governance strategies, the establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks on public service delivery, pioneering new alternatives to measure corruption, and public administrative performance.

Mr. Acuña-Alfaro has experience in governance and public sector reform in the World Bank Institute, Washington, D.C.; the Danish International Development Agency, HN Consultants ApS in Denmark; Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico; International Center for Sustainable Human Development, the Central American Supreme Audit Institutions Organization Transparency International and UNDP Costa Rica. Mr. Acuña-Alfaro, has degrees from Oxford University (Doctor of Philosophy candidate and Master of Letters), University of Essex in the United Kingdom, (MA in Political Economy), and Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica (MSc in International Relations). He was the Ronaldo Falconer Scholar at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford 2004-2007 and a recipient of the British Chevening scholarship 1999-2000.



### **Carmen Rosa De León Escribano**

Director

Institute of Education for Sustainable Development (IEPADES)

Guatemalan. With a Degree in Sociology and Anthropology of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid; Master's Degrees in Sociology of the Development of Latin America and in Security and Criminology. Nowadays studying Political Science and International Relations Ph.D. in Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain. From 1996 to the date, Executive Director of the

Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (Institute of Education for the Sustainable Development –IEPADES-).

She has been General Director of International Bilateral Relations and Director of Central American Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; President of the Special Commission of Attention to Refugees, Returned and Displaced of Guatemala (CEAR); and Manager of the National Program of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNCHR. Participant in the negotiations for Peace in Guatemala, as Research Centers Sector’s Coordinator in the Civil Society Assembly. Member of BANRURAL's Directors Board since 1998 on behalf of Non Governmental Organizations and Board’s President (2016-2017). Titular member of the Security Advisory Council of Civil Society (CAS) for the Republic’s President since 2004, and Coordinator of the CAS since 2009 until July, 2011. Member of the Civil Society Advisory Group for UN Women in Guatemala (since 2014).

### **Session 3: Challenges and approaches to people’s engagement in post-conflict situations**



**Fatiha Serour**

Director

Serour Associates for Inclusion and Equity)

Fatiha Serour is a development specialist with a focus on human security, having designed and tested tools aimed at supporting an effective transition from reconstruction to development; food security and vulnerability; youth, gender and capacity development. She is an Algerian national who has held numerous positions within the United Nations and international non-governmental sector. She is currently the Director of Serour Associates for Inclusion and Equity, an association focusing on supporting inclusive approaches to development.

Previously, she served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Somalia (2013-2014) and as Senior Adviser in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (2000-2006). She also served as Director of the Youth Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, overseeing the largest youth programme in 54 Commonwealth countries (2006-2010) which developed a strategic and integrated framework addressing the causal effects of poverty and social exclusion on youth discontent and rising violence.

In her position as Regional Director for Europe, North Africa and the Middle East at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) from 2010-2012, she led national and international teams in implementing projects for the United Nations system, international financial institutions, governments and other partners in world aid. She also provided strategic leadership, programme coordination and evaluation as well as oversight of country offices in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Serbia & Kosovo. Ms. Serour holds a PhD in Political Economy and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen. She is fluent in French, Arabic and English.



**Sarah Warshauer Freedman**  
Professor, Graduate School of Education  
University of California Berkeley

Sarah Warshauer Freedman has been a professor in the Graduate School of Education at UC Berkeley since 1981. She also is a Senior Research Fellow and member of the Faculty Council for the UC Berkeley Human Rights Center. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Education, a fellow of the American Educational Research Association, has three times been a Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, and has been a Resident at The Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation. She served as founding faculty director for the Multicultural Urban Secondary English (MUSE) Credential and MA program until 2014 and for 10 years directed the National Center for the Study of Writing and Literacy.

Beginning in the 1990s, she added an emphasis on social studies and has focused on the role of education around the world in helping young people recover from mass violence and in helping them navigate divisions in their societies. Her work in post-conflict societies began with a study of the Role of Education in Reconstructing Societies after Genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. In another project, she examined educational needs of girls who were victims of the Lord's Resistance in Northern Uganda. Her current research is situated in the divided societies of Northern Ireland, South Africa, and the US and was funded by a multi-year award from the Spencer Foundation and involves a partnership with Facing History and Ourselves. Author of over 100 articles and chapters and six books, she is now working on her seventh book, with a tentative title of Growing up Divided-

<http://gse.berkeley.edu/people/sarah-w-freedman>

#### **Session 4: Implications for sustaining peace**



**Marika Theros**  
Senior Researcher & Consultant  
The Institute for State Effectiveness

Marika Theros is a governance and human rights expert with over 15 years professional experience. She is a senior researcher and fellow at the Institute for State Effectiveness where she leads their strategic dialogue on the 'State of the State'. She also provides strategic and programmatic advice on issues related to human security and civil society strengthening in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to a range of institutions.

Over the last 15 years, she has designed a number of research and dialogue processes on key issues related to security, justice and state-building in Afghanistan, the Gulf, Lebanon, Europe and the Balkans. She previously served as Global Security research officer at the London School of Economics where she ran their Afghanistan program; a senior consultant for a large construction project owner in the Persian Gulf to prepare strategy on labor migration and reform; and launched a cross-sectoral platform in the Balkans focused on driving regional economic initiatives. She publishes widely on security, justice and state-building issues, and currently

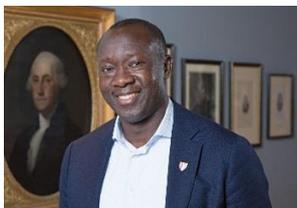
serves on the executive committee of the London Transitional Justice Network, the board of the Humanitarian Law Centre in the Balkans, and the LSE-based Human Security Study Group that provided input into the current EU strategic review of their external policy. Marika is currently completing her doctorate in International Development at the London School of Economics, and holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the Colombia University and a MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics.



**Henk-Jan Brinkman**  
Chief of the Policy, Planning and Application Branch  
Peacebuilding Support Office  
United Nations

Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman has been chief of the Policy, Planning and Application Branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office in the United Nations Secretariat since 2010. Between 2006 and 2010, he was, subsequently, chief Economic Analysis and chief Food Security Policy and Markets in the Office of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme in Rome, Italy, and Senior Adviser for Economic Policy in the World Food Programme, based in New York. From 2001 to 2006 he advised United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette on economic, social and environmental issues as a Senior Economic Affairs Officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Between 1989 and 2001, he was in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, where, inter alia, he contributed to the World Economic and Social Survey.

He co-chaired the Working Group on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding indicators of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in 2012-2013 and has been a member or (co-)chair of several working groups and advisory boards. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in economics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and a Ph.D. in economics from the New School for Social Research in New York City. He has written on such topics as the peace and justice in the post-2015 development agenda, socio-economic factors behind violent conflicts, the impact of high food prices on nutritional status, economic adjustment in Africa, multilateral negotiations and human stature as a measure of the standard of living. He is the lead author of WFP's World Hunger Series – Hunger and Markets (Earthscan, 2009) and the author of Explaining Prices in the Global Economy: A Post-Keynesian Model (Edward Elgar, 1999). He holds Dutch citizenship.



**Amara Konneh**  
Manager of Fragility, Conflict and Violence Hub  
World Bank

Amara Konneh is the head of the World Bank Group's Global Hub for Fragility, Conflict, Violence and Forced Displacement (FCV) in Nairobi, Kenya after nearly a decade of service with the government of Liberia. In this role, Amara's top three priorities are (i) to implement the World Bank strategic priorities in countries affected by fragility, conflict, violence, and refugees and in close coordination with the Bank's nGlobal Practices, Country Management Units, International Finance Corporation (Bank's private sector arm), Multilateral Insurance Guarantee

Agency and international development partners on the ground, (ii) lead the Nairobi-based team to provide operational and analytical support on fragility, conflict and violence issues to countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and to disseminate best practices and lessons learned; and (iii) represent the Bank and manage relationships with the donor community in Nairobi on FCV issues in collaboration with Country Director.

Mr. Konneh is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University master's programme. He also holds a masters from Pennsylvania State University and a bachelor's degree from Drexel University.



**Peter Mae**

Under-Secretary, Policy Planning Programme Development  
Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace  
Solomon Islands

Mr. Peter Mae is the Under-Secretary—Policy Planning Programme Development with the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace, Honiara, Solomon Islands. He has been a vital member of the Solomon Islands public affairs arena serving his government since 1989. The focus of his public service activities ranged from capacity building to covering numerous operational, management and strategic, policy planning as well as criminal justice and investigation processes. He has also been a leader in a series of external research teams and assignments from 2010 onward.

Prior to his present appointment as Under-Secretary Policy Planning Programme Development with the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace, Mr. Mae served in several capacities including as the Chief Policy Planner Analyst (security) of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Mae's education covers a broad range of learning. He holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Administration majoring in Governance, Public Sector Management & Public Policy and Sector Leadership, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management Public Administration and History Political Studies from the University of the South Pacific, as well as numerous certificates in: Public Administration, Management Studies and Criminal Law. He has also received numerous awards as a result of learning activities offered by national and international training institutions and universities.