



# SDGs Learning, Training & Practice 2022

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr. Leonel Fernández, Former President of the Dominican Republic. He was re-elected on May 16, 2008, to his third (non-consecutive) term as constitutional president of the Dominican Republic (his previous terms were from 1996-2000 and 2004-2008).**



President Fernández is founder and honorary president of the *Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo* (Foundation for Global Democracy and Development), a private, non-partisan, non-profit, research-based think-tank with headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; offices in New York City, Washington, DC, and Madrid, Spain; and representatives in Paris, France and Geneva, Switzerland, before United Nations organizations including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He is also president emeritus of the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic and president of the Dominican Liberation Party.

President Fernández is a member of various foreign councils and institutions, including *Círculo de Montevideo* (Circle of Montevideo) (1996), The Carter Center Council of Freely Elected Government Heads (1997), Inter-American Dialogue (2001), Club of Madrid (2001); and presides over the U.S.-Caribbean Executive Club, organized and sponsored by the Center for Strategic International Studies in Washington, D.C. (2000). President Fernández has been awarded honoris causa degrees by various renowned institutions of higher learning, including Harvard University (1999), Sorbonne University (1999), *Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña* (National University Pedro Henríquez Ureña) (2000), Seton Hall University (2000), Lehman College (2002) *Universidad Estatal de Santiago de Chile* (State University of Santiago, Chile) (2002), Stevens Institute of Technology (2004), Nova Southeastern University (2005), University of Massachusetts (2005), *Universidad Estatal de Panamá* (State University of Panama) (2005), China's Cultural University in Taiwan (2006), and Hankuk University, South Korea (2006).

President Fernández was born on December 26, 1953, in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to José Antonio Fernández and Yolanda Reyna Romero. He is married to Dr. Margarita Cedeño, and has three children, Nicole, Omar, and Yolanda America. In 1962, he migrated to New York City where he completed his secondary schooling. Upon return to the Dominican Republic he enrolled at *Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo* (UASD) (Autonomous University of Santo Domingo) where he obtained his juris doctor degree with honors (*magna cum laude*) in 1978, receiving the J. Humberto Ducoudray award for being the top student in his class. After serving as professor at UASD and *Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales* (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences), President Fernández distinguished himself and his writing on the freedom of the press, history, sociology, communication, and foreign relations. He has been recognized as one of the most prestigious and brilliant academics of his generation. His published works include: *Los Estados Unidos en el Caribe: De la Guerra Fría al Plan Reagan* (United States in the Caribbean: From the Cold War to the Reagan Plan), *Raíces de un Poder Usurpado* (Roots of an Usurped Power) and *Nuevo Paradigma* (New Paradigm).

**H.E. Ms. Egriselda López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador**



In August 2019, Ambassador López became the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, New York. She is currently the youngest Ambassador to the United Nations. She served as Chair of the 18th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2020. During the 75th General Assembly, she was appointed as co-chair of the Ad Hoc working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the United Nations General Assembly, leading a successful and inclusive process, adopting an action-oriented resolution on this issue. Moreover, in June 2021, Ambassador López was elected Chair of the 4th Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) of the United Nations General Assembly, for its 76th Session. From 2013 to 2016, she served as Counsellor -later promoted to Minister Counsellor- at the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York. From 2010 to 2013, she was Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at El Salvador's Embassy in the Republic of Korea. Ambassador López began her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador in 2007, 11 where she

worked as an advisor on multilateral affairs. Besides serving as a diplomat, she has experience working in NGOs and think tanks in San Salvador and Geneva. Ambassador López holds a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2018), a Master of International Affairs from the Graduate Institute for International Development Studies (2018) in Geneva, Switzerland, and a Bachelor of International Relations from the University of El Salvador (2006). At the Graduate Institute for International Development Studies, she completed a dissertation on gender parity in the Salvadoran Foreign Service (2018). At the University of El Salvador, her thesis focused on “The economic development model in El Salvador 1992-2002, and its impact on desertification.” Ambassador López’s native language is Spanish, she speaks English, French and Portuguese. Egriselda López is married and has a daughter.

**H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations**



Before his latest appointment, Mr. Kelapile was Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary of the Addis Ababa-based United Nations Economic Commission for Africa between 2014 and 2018. From 2013 to 2014, Mr. Kelapile was the Deputy Director in the Department of Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Gaborone. As a member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions beginning in 2004, he served as Vice-Chairman from 2008 to 2010 and as Chairman

from 2011 until 2012.

Before that, Mr. Kelapile was posted at Botswana’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 1998 to 2003, serving in a number of positions, including First Secretary and Counsellor. He joined the foreign service in 1995. Mr. Kelapile holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Botswana. He is married and has one child.

## **Mr. Liu Zhenmin, USG for Economic and Social Affairs**



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Mr. Liu Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. Liu brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

Mr. Liu started his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1982. Since then, he has served the Ministry in various capacities, including as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (2009-2011); Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2006-2009); Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (2003-2006); and Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (1998-2003). He also served in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (1992-1995) and in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (1984-1988).

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Mr. Liu holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University. He was born in August 1955 in [Shanxi Province](#), China. Mr. Liu is married.