



## 2025 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM Biographies for High-level Speakers

### Opening Session

#### WELCOMING REMARKS

##### **H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC**



His Excellency Bob Rae was elected the President of the 2025 session (July 2024 to July 2025) of the ECOSOC for the 2025 Session. He is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. Previously, H.E. Mr. Rae served as Canada's special envoy on humanitarian and refugee issues, building on his 2017 role as special envoy to Myanmar while addressing global humanitarian and refugee issues. A former premier of Ontario and interim leader of Canada's Liberal Party, H.E. Mr. Rae was elected to federal and provincial parliaments 11 times between 1978 and 2013. After stepping down in 2013, he returned to

legal practice and, in particular to work with Indigenous communities in the areas of education, governance and human rights, driven by a lifelong commitment to social justice. Before his appointment as Permanent Representative, H.E. Mr. Rae was senior counsel at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP. He also taught at the University of Toronto in the School of Public Policy and Governance, in the Faculty of Law and at Massey College and Victoria University. He also served as a fellow of the Forum of Federations, Massey College and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and worked as a mediator and arbitrator with ADR Chambers. A former partner at Goodmans LLP, he led the restructuring of the Canadian Red Cross and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and chaired the board of the Royal Conservatory of Music. He authored 5 books and a number of government reports. H.E. Mr. Rae is a privy councillor, a companion of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario, with numerous awards and honorary degrees. He holds an Honours BA in Modern History from the University of Toronto, an MPhil as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

##### **Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)**



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 7 October 2022 the appointment of Guy Ryder of the United Kingdom as Under-Secretary-General for Policy in his Executive Office. Mr. Ryder was most recently Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva after serving two successive terms since October 2012. He first joined the ILO in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities and from 1999, served as Director of the Office of the Director-General. Mr. Ryder started his professional career in 1981 as an assistant at the International Department of the Trades Union Congress in London. From 1985, he held the position of Secretary of the Industry Trade Section of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET) in Geneva. In 1988, he became Assistant Director and – from 1993 - Director of the Geneva office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). In 2002, he was appointed General

Secretary of the ICFTU and was elected as the first General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) when it was created in 2006. He returned to the ILO in 2010 as Executive Director, responsible for international labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### **Ms. Aluki Kotierk, Former President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)**



Originally from Igloolik, Canada, Ms. Kotierk is driven by her passion to empower and improve the lives of Inuit and to promote their inclusion. After earning her Master's degree in Native and Canadian Studies at Trent University, Ms. Kotierk had worked for various Inuit organizations including Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Nunavut Sivuniksavut. Ms. Kotierk represented Indigenous People's Organizations on the Global Task Force for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) in 2022-2032 as a co-chair from June 2022 to December 2023 and is currently a co-chair for one of the Adhoc Working Groups. She played a key role in the recent historic devolution agreement between the

Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Jan 2024): [Nunavut devolution](#).

### **Ms. Dayana Blanco Quiroga, 2023 Future Rising Fellow; Founder of Uru Uru Team; Aymara Indigenous environmental activist from Bolivia**



Ms. Quiroga has established an indigenous grassroots organization, 'Uru Uru Team' dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Uru Uru lake, a vital body of water that has been contaminated by industrial waste. Team Uru Uru's conservation efforts combine indigenous knowledge with scientific principles of phytoremediation. They use the native totora plant, which absorbs heavy metals and contaminants to filter and cleanse the lake's water. To date they have successfully reduced lake pollution by 30 percent. Team Uru Uru was awarded the Equator Prize by UNDP in 2023. Ms. Quiroga is writing a graphic novel based on her team's success. Currently, Dayana is a Fulbright Fellow, pursuing studies in peacebuilding

at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is writing a graphic novel based on her team's success.

## Closing Session

### CLOSING REMARKS

### **Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA**



Ms. Lotta Tähtinen was appointed Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) in 2024. She oversees and guides UN DESA's support to the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Prior to this, she served as the Chief of the Outreach and Partnerships Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals in UN DESA. Here she led stakeholder and partnerships programmes and oversaw communication and outreach work, along with overall preparations for the annual ECOSOC Partnership

Forum. She has extensive experience in supporting major UN conferences and summits on sustainable development, including those on small island developing States, the ocean, water and sustainable transport. She also supported the intergovernmental process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in 2015. She began her career in UN DESA over 20 years ago in the former Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (current OISC) and has also served in the UN Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management. She holds a Master's degree in international relations from the University of Tampere, Finland.

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