

SPEAKERS BIOS

- **Karen AbuZayd @KarenAbuZayd #UN4RefugeesMigrants**

Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

Karen Koning AbuZayd is the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, to be held at the General Assembly on 19 September 2016. Mrs. AbuZayd has served as a pro bono Commissioner on the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, mandated by the 47-member UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. She retired from the UN in 2010 as Under-Secretary-General and Commissioner-General of UNRWA, based in Gaza since August 2000. From 1981-2000, she worked in various capacities for UNHCR in Sudan, Namibia, Sierra Leone (Chief of Mission), Bosnia (Chief of Mission), Geneva (Chef de Cabinet) and Washington (Regional Representative). Prior to her UN career, she taught Middle East Politics at Makerere University, Uganda, and Juba University, southern Sudan.

- **Ambassador Alvaro Albacete @KAICIID**

Deputy Secretary General for External Relations, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, KAICIID

Ambassador Albacete is Deputy Secretary General for External Relations at KAICIID. From February 2014, he served KAICIID as special advisor to the Secretary-General for public diplomacy. Since then he has been a leader in developing and implementing KAICIID's use of interreligious dialogue for peacebuilding in particular in the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Previously, Mr. Albacete was Ambassador at Large dealing with interreligious and intercultural dialogue for the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has worked for the European Commission in Bosnia-Herzegovina as an advisor in the area of good government for the Presidency of the State and the Ministry of European Integration between 1999 and 2002. He has also worked for the Inter-American Development Bank in Argentina, Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay, and has been a guest professor of the École Nationale d'Administration of France. He was trained in Driving Government Performance by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Albacete has served in diverse positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, including the Division for the United Nations, Director of Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Director of the Minister's Cabinet and Ambassador.

- **Ambassador João Vale de Almeida @ValedeAlmeidaEU @eu_eeas**

European Union Ambassador to the United Nations

Ambassador João Vale de Almeida is a senior European Union diplomat who has been appointed as EU Ambassador to the United Nations on 16 October 2015. He previously served as the first EU Ambassador to the United States of America, from 2010 to 2014. In Washington, he actively engaged in strengthening EU/U.S. relations. Prior to his appointment, he served as Director General of External Relations of the European Commission, the European Union's executive body. As the most senior official under the authority of the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, he helped formulate and execute the EU's foreign policy and played a key role in preparing for the European External Action Service (EEAS) introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009 and officially launched in December 2010. He joined the European Commission in 1982 at its Delegation in Lisbon, after working for seven years as a journalist. He was decorated in 2011 by the President of the Republic of Portugal with the 'Grã-Cruz da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique' (Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator).

- **H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser @UNAOC**

High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser assumed his position as the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations on 1 March 2013. Throughout his career, he has contributed to advancing the multilateral agenda in the realms of peace and security, sustainable development and South-South cooperation. Prior to that, Mr. Al

Nasser held the position of President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly from 2011 to 2012. His career as a diplomat spans for more than three decades. Since 1998, he has represented Qatar in the United Nations and has worked on core issues such as security, terrorism, poverty, hunger and natural disasters. Mr. Al-Nasser has received numerous awards and honorary doctorates from various countries and universities for his work on fostering cross-cultural understanding.

- **Mohamad Bazzi @BazziNYU @nyu_journalism**

Associate Professor of Journalism, New York University

Mohamad Bazzi is an associate professor of journalism at New York University, where he teaches international reporting. From 2009 to 2013, he served as an adjunct senior fellow for Middle East studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), providing regional expertise and analysis. He was also the 2008 Edward R. Murrow Press Fellow at CFR. Before joining the NYU faculty, Mr. Bazzi was the Middle East bureau chief at *Newsday* from 2003 to 2007. He established *Newsday* bureaus in Baghdad and Beirut, and he was the lead writer on the Iraq war and its aftermath. He has written extensively about regional politics, Sunni-Shiite conflicts, and militant Islam. He also covered the 2000 Palestinian uprising, the war in Afghanistan, and the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel. His essays and commentaries on the Middle East have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other publications.

- **Cindy Carcamo @theCindyCarcamo @latimes**

Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times

Cindy Carcamo covers immigration issues for the *Los Angeles Times*. Previously, she was Arizona bureau chief and a national correspondent for *The Times*, focusing on border and immigration issues in the Southwest. A Los Angeles native, she has reported in Argentina and Mexico during her time as an Inter American Press Association scholar and as a reporter for the Orange County Register. She has also reported from Guatemala and Honduras where her coverage was part of a team Overseas Press Club Award. She is the recipient of the French-American Foundation's 2012 Immigration Journalism Award and was a finalist for the 2012 PEN Center USA Literary Award in Journalism and 2011 Livingston Award.

- **Ambassador Carmelo Inguanez**

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations

Ambassador Carmelo Inguanez is a Maltese diplomat with over 28 years experience. He has served as Ambassador of Malta in Moscow, Rome and Tunis prior to his posting to New York as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in July 2016. In Valletta, he occupied a number of senior positions including those of Director, Protocol and Consular Affairs and Director General, European and Economic Affairs. During Malta's EU accession negotiations he was seconded to the Office of the Prime Minister as Negotiations Coordinator.

- **Damien Cave @damiencave @nytimes**

Deputy National Editor for Digital, The New York Times

Damien Cave is the Deputy National Editor for Digital at *The New York Times*. Previously, he was a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*, based in Mexico City, covering Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Before that, he served as the Times' Miami bureau chief, writing on a range of topics including the recession, politics and veterans. His previous assignment was in Baghdad, Iraq, where he wrote extensively about the American troop surge and the consequences of violence; and he was among a team of Times reporters who were finalists for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in international reporting. He also led a smaller group that won the 2008 Overseas Press Club award for best international coverage on the Web.

- **Sharon Moshavi @smoshavi @ICFJ**

Vice President, New Initiatives, International Center for Journalists

At the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), Sharon Moshavi oversees new project development with an emphasis on developing innovative digital media projects. She also serves as a program director on projects in India and Malaysia. Previously, she worked as communications manager at the John S. and James L. Knight

Foundation. She reported internationally from Asia and the Middle East for more than a decade, based in New Delhi, Jerusalem and Tokyo, returning to the United States in 2003. She has written for *The Boston Globe*, *Newsday*, *BusinessWeek*, *Forbes*, *The New Republic* and U.S. News & World Report, among others. She also produced radio documentaries and essays for NPR, BBC and CBC.

- **Rachel Peric @WelcomingUSA**

Deputy Director, Welcoming America

Rachel Peric is the Deputy Director of Welcoming America, where she works to create more prosperous communities where all individuals – including immigrants – have the opportunity to participate and thrive. Prior to Welcoming America, she served as Executive Director of the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL), a capacity building and advocacy organization supporting adult ESOL and literacy programs in suburban Washington, DC. Her career includes work spanning a number of community-building issues at the local and international level, including serving as a regional director with the United Way of the National Capital Area and managing international development programs with a private consulting firm, Management Systems International (MSI). The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Mrs. Peric also serves on the board of Art and Remembrance, a nonprofit devoted to using art and personal narrative to recognize individual courage and resilience.

- **Ambassador William Lacy Swing @IOMchief @IOM_news**

Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

On 14 June 2013, Ambassador William Lacy Swing of the United States was re-elected to his second five-year term as Director General of the International Organization for Migration. He was first elected on 18 June 2008, and assumed the post on 1 October 2008. From May 2003 until January 2008, as UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ambassador Swing successfully led all facets of the largest UN peacekeeping operation in history. Before his appointment to the DRC and since November 2001, he was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Chief of Mission, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). His diplomatic career has spanned some forty years including six postings as Ambassador – South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (ex-Zaire), the former People's Republic of the Congo (Congo Brazzaville); and Haiti. He graduated from Catawba College (BA 1956) in North Carolina, and Yale University (BD, 1960) and did post-graduate studies at Tübingen University, Germany. He taught at a private German boarding school before entering the Foreign Service. He speaks French and German.

- **Arun Venugopal @arunNYC @WNYC**

Reporter and Host of Micropolis, WNYC

Arun Venugopal is a reporter and the host of Micropolis, WNYC's ongoing examination of race and identity. The series has explored such issues as the global skin-lightening market, the problems with ethnic sitcoms and the meaning of turbans. Mr. Venugopal is a regular contributor to NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered. He has appeared on PBS Newshour, Countdown with Keith Olbermann, On the Media and Studio 360, and has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal* and Salon. His commentary on Indian-American issues has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Post* and the Associated Press. Previously, Mr. Venugopal wrote for *India Abroad*, and served as an editor at the multi-faith website Beliefnet. He lives with his family in Queens.