

MAPUTO

+15



ROLE PLAYERS' BIOGRAPHIES



CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE CONFÉRENCES GENÈVE (CICG)
RUE DE VAREMBÉ 7 • SALLE 3 • 19-22 MAY 2014



Maputo +15 is a series of four activities taking place in Geneva from 19 to 22 May 2014 to highlight key issues under consideration at the Maputo Review Conference.

MONDAY 19 MAY, 15:00— 17:00 | MAPUTO +15 OFFICIAL OPENING



His Excellency, Pedro Comissário Afonso, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations (Geneva)

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Pedro Comissário served for six years as Ambassador to Sweden and other Nordic countries. He was Director of Legal and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, served as Ambassador to Portugal for five years and was the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations in New York for seven years.

A career diplomat, Pedro Comissário has held numerous posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Maputo, taught law to university students in Mozambique and has written various articles related to international law, constitutional law and other issues in the area of international relations.

Pedro Comissário holds a law degree from Eduardo Modlane University, Mozambique and a Master's degree in constitutional and international law from Colombia University School of Law as well as from the Columbia's International and Public Affairs school.



Her Excellency, Mariangela Zappia, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations (Geneva)

Mrs. Mariangela Zappia is a high-ranking Italian diplomat with 28 years of diverse experience, including multilateral affairs, institutional communication and information, press and media relations, and development cooperation.

She was previously Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Balkans Department of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. In addition, Mrs. Zappia worked at the Mission of Italy to the UN in New York, in Brussels, in the NATO media task-force during the conflict in Kosovo, was Counsellor in charge of relations with the Italian press and media and Spokesperson of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rome, and held various positions in New York, Dakar and Rome.

Mrs. Zappia holds a Master degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Florence and a Post-graduate degree in Diplomatic and International Relations.



Cornelio Sommaruga, Former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Honorary President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Cornelio Sommaruga is a well-known personality in the life of the Convention. As President of the International Committee of the Red Cross he participated in the signing ceremony of the Convention in Ottawa in 1997. Later, in 2004 as President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, he participated in the Convention's First Review Conference, the *Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World*.

Prior to this, Cornelio Sommaruga was the Swiss State Secretary for External Economic Affairs, held diplomatic posts at The Hague, Bonn and Rome and was Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to EFTA, GATT, UNCTAD and ECE/UN in Geneva.

Cornelio Sommaruga graduated with a law degree from the University of Zurich. He is also the recipient of multiple Honorary Degrees, Presidential Awards, and State Decorations from Belgium, France, the Holy See, Italy, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and Sweden, among others.



UN Photo/Pierre-Michel Virost

His Excellency, Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (and a delegate at the First Meeting of the State Parties)

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Thomas Hajnoczi was the Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe, Director for the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy and also Policy Planning at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Thomas Hajnoczi served as Ambassador to Norway and as the Head of Department for Disarmament, Arms Council and Nuclear Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Vienna. He was also Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Guatemala, worked in Hungary and was Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York.

Thomas Hajnoczi began his diplomatic career working in the field of Disarmament at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has a Doctorate in Law from the University of Vienna, and also studied at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

Thomas Hajnoczi was the Deputy Head of Austria's delegation at the Convention's First Meeting of the States Parties in Maputo in 1999.



Sylvie Brigot-Vilain, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition

Sylvie joined the ICBL in 2001 after having worked as a grassroots campaigner with Handicap International in the mid-90s. Passionate about humanitarian disarmament, she has worked closely for many years with national campaigns to universalize the Convention and ensure its implementation. Sylvie became Executive Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition when these two “shining examples” of humanitarian disarmament success merged in 2011. Sylvie notes she is privileged to work with a network of uniquely talented and dedicated campaigners around the world and is particularly inspired by the role of survivors and youth in the global movement for humanitarian disarmament. She is confident that in her lifetime she will see a world with no new victims of landmines or cluster munitions, realized through the powerful partnership between civil society and states. Sylvie holds a degree in International Relations and a specialized diploma in Development Cooperation from La Sorbonne in Paris. Sylvie was a delegate at the Convention’s First Meeting of the States Parties in 1999, representing Handicap International as part of the ICBL’s delegation.



Elias Zimba, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations

Elias has been instrumental in the preparations of the upcoming Maputo Review Conference.

As a Convention Co-Chair, Elias has expressed the view that cooperation and assistance have been approached in a sophisticated and focused manner, as most recently evidenced at the Bangkok Symposium.

Elias also echoed the sentiments expressed by many during the symposium about the central role of national ownership and the need for discussions on mine victim assistance to be taken into broader international human rights and healthcare arenas.

Elias has a Master of Arts in Political Science and Government from St. John’s University in New York, USA.

In May of 1999, during the time of the Convention’s First Meeting of the State Parties, Elias served as an advisor to the President of the Republic of Mozambique.



Judy Grayson, Senior Advisor, Armed Violence & Weapons, Child Protection, UNICEF

Judy Grayson joined UNICEF four years ago as a Senior Advisor in its Child Protection Section, where she leads the Armed Violence & Weapons Team.

Judy has worked in dozens of mine-affected and conflict-affected countries over the past 15 years, from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, Chad, Yemen and more, under the auspices of UNDP, several NGOs, the World Bank, and government agencies.

In her current post she leads the work on protecting children who survive the use of munitions from direct, or indirect, harm.



Firoz Ali Alizada, Campaign Manager, International Campaign to Ban Landmines

Firoz works in Geneva leading and supporting the work of the ICBL's global campaign network in over 100 countries including a network of victim assistance/disability focal points and survivor networks project in about 30 countries.

Before joining the ICBL, Firoz worked for the United Nations Mine Action Center, Handicap International, and ICRC in Afghanistan. In 2007, he co-founded the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization, an NGO that provides assistance to persons with disabilities including landmine and explosive remnants of war survivors in Afghanistan.

Firoz lost his legs in a landmine explosion in the mid-90s in Afghanistan. Since then, he has been advocating for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities around the world.



David Atwood, Senior Advisor, Small Arms Survey and independent policy consultant

David recently completed a period as Visiting Fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy. Previously, he was the Representative for Disarmament and Peace at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva. In this capacity, David worked on a range of disarmament and security issues, including landmines and small arms and light weapons. He also served as QUNO's Director for seven years.

David was a co-founder of the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Geneva Forum and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. He was General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation for six years.

David holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina.

David was a delegate at the Convention's First Meeting of the States Parties in 1999, representing the Quakers United Nations Office as part of the ICBL's delegation.

TUESDAY 20 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | BEYOND MAPUTO: THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION



His Excellency Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (Geneva) and Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council

Prior to his second appointment to Geneva, Luis Gallegos served as Ambassador to the United States, Australia and El Salvador, was Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Under Secretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Head of Mission in Bulgaria.

He also held numerous posts within the United Nations, including as Vice President of the General Assembly; Vice President of the Economic and Social Council; Vice President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund; Vice President of the Commission on Human Rights and President of the Geneva Diplomatic Corps Network.

Luis Gallegos has a Bachelor of Political and Social Sciences; a Doctor of Law; a Qualification in Diplomacy from the Institute of Higher National Studies; and a Master of Arts from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.



His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan, Chairperson of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation

Prince Mired has served as a special envoy for the Convention since 2006. In this capacity, Prince Mired is leading efforts to promote further acceptance of the 1997 Convention on the Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines. Previously, Prince Mired served as President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention.

Since 2004, Prince Mired has served as Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation. Since 2000, Prince Mired has served as President of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers and Vice President of the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Prince Mired holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and History and a Master of Arts in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Tufts University in the USA. He also holds a Masters of Philosophy Degree in Historical Studies from the University of Cambridge, England.

TUESDAY 20 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | BEYOND MAPUTO: THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION



Sara Sekkenes, Adviser, Conflict Prevention and Recovery – Partnerships, United Nations Development Programme

As UNDP representative to the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, she shepherded the UN inter-agency work on a prohibition of cluster munitions ensuring full UN support to the Oslo Process and providing institutional support to the conferences which resulted in the Convention on Cluster Munitions, for which she now leads implementation support and functions as Executive Coordinator.

Sara is engaged with policy work on efforts to achieve a sustained reduction in the impact and occurrence of armed violence and conflict through arms control and humanitarian disarmament efforts. She also provides technical advisory services and support to UNDP programmes around the world partnering with governments in armed violence prevention initiatives, including mine action and small arms control. Previously, she worked with Norwegian People's Aid in Africa, south-eastern Europe and Oslo.

Sara holds an MSc in Human and Physical Geography, and additional degrees in Development Studies and Political Science.



Photo, MAG

Nick Roseveare, Chief Executive, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Nick Roseveare has worked in humanitarian assistance for twenty-five years and has led MAG as Chief Executive since November 2011. Prior to this Nick served as Chief Executive of Bond from June 2008. Bond is the membership body for 370 British NGOs working in international development.

Nick has worked in Sudan, Ethiopia and Mozambique during their respective conflicts and transitions. He has also worked in senior management roles for Oxfam in UK – initially supporting humanitarian operations throughout Africa, and subsequently as global Humanitarian Director. His final role was as Regional Director (West Africa).

In the 25 years since its founding in 1989, MAG has returned 5.5 trillion m² of land to productive use; destroyed more than 6 million landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war; and delivered 80,000 Risk Education sessions. The impact of MAG's work was felt by 2 million men, women and children in 2013 alone.

TUESDAY 20 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | BEYOND MAPUTO: THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION



Mark Verstedden, Deputy Head of Delegation for Disarmament, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Prior to his post in Geneva, Mark worked at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Canberra, Australia; was a Desk officer for NATO and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe affairs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and earlier as Desk officer for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In addition, Mark worked at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands.

Mark Verstedden has a Master of Arts in History from Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen and attended the University of Hull.



Kerry Brinkert, Director, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

Since 2002, Kerry Brinkert has served as head of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), or secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The ISU supports all States Parties to the Convention by supporting the Convention's meeting programme, committee structure and office holders. The ISU also supports individual States Parties by providing advice, information and technical support on implementation and universalization. As well, the ISU serves as the authoritative information source on the Convention. The ISU is directly accountable to the States Parties while being hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Between 1998 and 2002 he worked for the Mine Action Team of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade where he served as Section Head of Research, Policy and Communications.

He received a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University (Canada).

TUESDAY 20 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | BEYOND MAPUTO: THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION



Moderator,
Nicole Hogg, Legal Advisor, Arms
Unit, International Committee of the
Red Cross

Nicole Hogg joined the ICRC in 2003, initially as a field delegate in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in western Côte d'Ivoire. She spent several years as ICRC regional legal adviser in Australia, working on international humanitarian law issues, including promoting States' accession to weapons treaties and their implementation into national law.

Since joining the Arms Unit in the legal division of ICRC Headquarters, Nicole has worked primarily on the universalisation and implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

She has published on the topic of women's involvement in the Rwandan genocide. She holds Law and Arts degrees from the University of Melbourne in Australia and a Master of Laws from McGill University in Canada.



Photo, Indonesian Mission

His Excellency Edi Yusup Ambassador
and Deputy Permanent Representative
of Indonesia to the United Nations
(Geneva)

Edi Yusup who had been previously posted to Geneva as a WTO negotiator, was also Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Guangzhou, in the People's Republic of China.

He started his career as a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was posted at the Indonesian Embassy in Seoul and the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. Following his long career track as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' official in charge in the Economics and Trade Affairs, he was appointed as the Director for ASEAN Economic Cooperation. He has also been involved in the series of negotiation meeting on WTO issues, G-20, G-33, Cairns Group, Asia-African Sub Regional Organization Conference, Organization of Islamic Conference, as well as ASEAN-related Meetings.

Edi Yusup graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Economics from Hasanuddin University of Indonesia and received a Master of Arts Degree from Murdoch University, Australia.

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | IS THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION SUFFICIENTLY UNIVERSALIZED?



Kerry Brinkert, Director of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

Since 2002, Kerry Brinkert has served as head of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), or secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

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His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan, Chairperson of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation

Prince Mired has served as a special envoy for the Convention since 2006. In this capacity, Prince Mired is leading efforts to promote further acceptance of the 1997 Convention on the Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines. Previously, Prince Mired served as President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention.

Since 2004, Prince Mired has served as Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation. Since 2000, Prince Mired has served as President of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers and Vice President of the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Prince Mired holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and History and a Master of Arts in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Tufts University in the USA. He also holds a Masters of Philosophy Degree in Historical Studies from the University of Cambridge, England.

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | IS THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION SUFFICIENTLY UNIVERSALIZED?



Denise Garcia, Associate Professor of International Security & Negotiation, Department of Political Science and International Affairs, Northeastern University, USA

Denise Garcia is the Sadeleer Research Faculty and associate professor in the Department of Political Science and the International Affairs program at Northeastern University in Boston, USA.

She is the author of *Small Arms and Security - New Emerging International Norms*, and *Disarmament Diplomacy and Human Security - Norms, Regimes, and Moral Progress in International Relations*. Denise is a member of the Academic Council of the United Nations, the International Committee for Robot Arms Control, the Arms Control Association, and the Global South Unit for Mediation.

Denise has a Ph.D., in International Relations and a Master's in International Relations and International Law from the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies and an International Relations undergraduate degree from the University of Brasilia, Brazil.



Pierre Gillon, Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations (Geneva)

Pierre Gillon started his career as parliamentary assistant at the Belgian Parliament, Special enquiry committee on the genocide in Rwanda. He served as an adviser to the Vice Prime minister and Minister of Defence (1998-1999).

He served successively as political advisor in the Belgian Representation to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union and in the Embassy of Belgium in Rwanda. In addition, he was deputy Head of Mission in Tel-Aviv, Israel and in Nicosia, Cyprus.

He graduated in Business Administration from the HEC and in Political Science from the Catholic University of Louvain. He holds an MSc in European Studies from the London School of Economics, and a Master's in Public Administration from the Free University of Brussels. In addition, he attended the Ecole nationale d'Administration.

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY, 15:00–17:00 | IS THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION SUFFICIENTLY UNIVERSALIZED?



Tamar Gabelnick, Policy Director,
International Campaign to Ban
Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition

Tamar Gabelnick has been Policy Director at the International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition since 2011. She is responsible for developing the ICBL-CMC's policy on all aspects of implementation and universalization of the Conventions banning landmines and cluster munitions.

Previously, she served as Treaty Implementation Director for the ICBL, where she advocated for rapid and full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Her work experience also includes research and advocacy on the international arms trade, as well as shorter posts with the United Nations in Croatia and NATO in Brussels.

She has a Master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University in the USA.



Photo, Mary Wareham

Tim Caughley, Resident Senior Fellow
at the United Nations Institute for
Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Prior to his current status as Resident Senior Fellow with UNIDIR, Tim Caughley was the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and concurrently Director of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs in Geneva overseeing all Geneva-based disarmament issues including anti-personnel landmines.

Previously, Tim was New Zealand's Head of Mission in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Ambassador for Disarmament for four years and Ambassador to UNEP in Nairobi in which capacity he attended the first Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Kenya.

Tim received an LL.B, Law and Politics from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

THURSDAY 22 MAY, 13:00–15:00 | BRIDGES BETWEEN WORLDS: THE GENEVA EDITION



UN Photo/Pierre-Michel Virost

His Excellency, Juan José Quintana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations (Geneva)

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Juan José Quintana had been posted to the Embassy of Colombia to the Netherlands in charge of matters concerning the International Court of Justice. He was also Minister in charge of legal affairs at the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in New York, and Delegate to the Security Council, and served as Advisor for Legal Affairs to the Organization of American States.

A career diplomat, Juan José Quintana has also been Minister Counsellor in Washington D.C., Director of the Multilateral Political Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chargé d'Affairs in Sofia, Bulgaria. He also served at the Embassy of Colombia in The Hague in two separate occasions.

Juan José Quintana has a Master of Laws in Public International Law from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University Jorge Tadeo Lozano of Bogotá.



UN Photo/Pierre-Michel Virost

His Excellency Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Geneva)

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Thomas Hajnoczi was the Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe, Director for the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy and also Policy Planning at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Thomas Hajnoczi served as Ambassador to Norway and as the Head of Department for Disarmament, Arms Council and Nuclear Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Vienna. He was also Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Guatemala, worked in Hungary and was Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York.

Thomas Hajnoczi began his diplomatic career in 1978 working in the field of Disarmament at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has a Doctorate in Law from the University of Vienna, and also studied at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna in 1977.

THURSDAY 22 MAY, 13:00–15:00 | BRIDGES BETWEEN WORLDS:
THE GENEVA EDITION



Facundo Chávez Penillas, Human Rights and Disability Advisor, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Facundo is a lawyer who previously worked at the Disability Department of the Ombudswoman's Office of the City of Buenos Aires.

He has vast expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities. As a person with disability himself, he has experienced discrimination in different ways. Discrimination in accessing work led him to get involved in the movement of persons with disabilities at the national, regional, and international levels. Facundo's work sees him actively involved in the post-2015 development agenda.

Facundo Penillas, graduated with an LLM from the American University, Washington College of Law and was an OSF Disability and Human Rights Fellow. Facundo graduated from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and obtained his law degree with a specialization in Business Law.



Elke Hottentot, Victim Assistance Technical Advisor, Handicap International

Elke Hottentot has worked in the field of local and international development for over twenty years. Her specialization lies in the area of community rehabilitation and humanitarian mine action. Within these two areas, she has held a wide variety of roles, including technical adviser, university lecturer, researcher, evaluator, and trainer.

She has worked with governments, the UN, as well as non-governmental, corporate and grassroots organizations in South East Asia, Africa, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Canada. She is based in Geneva, Switzerland, where she works with Handicap International as the Victim Assistance Technical Adviser.

A Dutch citizen, Elke is a trained physiotherapist with a Master's Degree in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies from the University of Calgary in Canada and is a EU certified yoga teacher.

THURSDAY 22 MAY, 13:00–15:00 | BRIDGES BETWEEN WORLDS: THE GENEVA EDITION



Stefan Trömel, Senior Disability Specialist, International Labour Organization

Prior to his post at the ILO, Stefan Trömel coordinated the Secretariat of the International Disability Alliance as Executive Director, and worked since 2008 as Director of the European Disability Forum.

Additionally, Stefan has been an active participant in the negotiation process of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and was instrumental in the work of the International Disability Caucus.

Stefan Trömel also worked at Fundación ONCE in Spain.



Vladimir Cuk, Acting Executive Director, International Disability Alliance

Vladimir Cuk is responsible for coordinating the IDA Secretariat in New York and supporting IDA advocacy towards the UN System, in particular toward the Second and Third Committees of the UN General Assembly, the World Bank and other international human rights organisations.

Prior to this post, Vladimir worked as Program Officer for the Victor Pineda Foundation and as Project Coordinator for Developmental Disability Research at the Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Vladimir Cuk also led the Association of Students with Disabilities of Serbia.

He holds a PhD in Disability Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago, in the USA where he also received a Master's of Science in Disability and Human Development, from the College of Applied Health Sciences. He also obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science from Univerzitet u Beogradu, Serbia.

THURSDAY 22 MAY, 13:00–15:00 | BRIDGES BETWEEN WORLDS:
THE GENEVA EDITION



Claude Tardif, Head of the
Physical Rehabilitation Programme,
International Committee of the Red
Cross

After a clinical and academic career in Canada, where he was the Director of the P&O School in Quebec, Claude joined the International Committee of the Red Cross working in several countries before starting at the ICRC Headquarters in Geneva.

Claude is also member of the Board and Executive Committee of the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled and focal point for Victim Assistance. He is also member of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics Sub-Committee Category II, a member of the Tanzanian Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists Advisory Board and is Chairman of the African Federation of Orthopaedic Technologists Advisory Board and Scientific Committee.

Claude holds a degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics in Laval, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Lower Limb Post-Graduate Diploma Lower Limb Orthotic Biomechanics, Glasgow.



David Atwood, Senior Advisor, Small
Arms Survey and independent policy
consultant

David recently completed a period as Visiting Fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy. Previously, he was the Representative for Disarmament and Peace at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva from 1995 to mid-2011. In this capacity, David worked on a range of disarmament and security issues, including landmines and small arms and light weapons. He also served as QUNO's Director from 2004 to mid-2011.

David was a co-founder of the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Geneva Forum and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. He was General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation from 1988 to 1994.

He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina.



UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

His Excellency Manuel B. Dengo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Geneva)

Prior to his second appointment to Geneva, Manuel Dengo worked for the Ministry of Inter-Institutional Coordination and the Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica. He also served as the Director of a Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative in Spain entitled Development Assistance Research.

In addition, Manuel Dengo worked at the United Nations Secretariat in New York from 1997 to 2007 as the Chief of the Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development. He also worked at the World Meteorological Organization, WMO, in a number of capacities, and was a candidate to the post of Secretary-General of the WMO in 1999.

Manuel Dengo has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Costa Rica and a Master of Science in environmental control engineering and resource utilisation from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.

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