

Meet the Speakers



Ugochi Daniels

Deputy Director General for Operations

International Organization for Migration
(IOM)

Ms. Ugochi Daniels was appointed as IOM's Deputy Director General of Operations, taking office on September 1, 2021. Prior to joining IOM, Ugochi Daniels was the Chief of Staff at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), covering Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. She was also the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Designated Official for Security in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 2018 to 2020. From 2013 to 2018, Ugochi Daniels was the Chief of the Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Headquarters, covering over seventy countries where UNFPA was responding to emergencies. Her stint at UNFPA includes assignments in the Philippines (Country Representative, 2010–2013) and Nepal (Deputy Representative, 2007–2010).

Ms. Daniels joined the UNFPA in 2002 as the Deputy Program Manager for Africa Youth Alliance (2002–2007), covering Ghana, Tanzania, Botswana, and Uganda. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Daniels was the Monitoring and Evaluation Information Specialist of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Nigeria from 1999 to 2002. Ms. Daniels also has private sector experience, having worked in the information technology, manufacturing, and financial services industries from 1992 to 1999.

Ms. Daniels is recognized as a UN (S)hero for her advocacy of women's health in humanitarian emergencies and her commitment to protecting human rights and promoting peace. She is dedicated to solving global problems through peace and development partnerships and emphasizes justice, equality, and community engagement. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Geography, a Post-graduate Diploma in Information Management for Business Decisions and is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.



Pedro Guazo

Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF)

Mr. Pedro Antonio Guazo Alonso was appointed the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the UNJSPF on 29 July 2020.

Mr. Guazo was the Finance Director at the United Nations in New York for almost eight years. He managed a portfolio of more than USD\$10 billion and an annual revenue of US\$13 billion. He led the Organization's finance operations in practically every country in the world.

Prior to joining the United Nations in 2012, he served in a similar capacity for more than two years as the Director of Finance and Treasury at the United Nations World Food Programme, managing a Portfolio of USD\$4 billion and supervising finance officials in more than 75 Country Offices.

During a 15-year banking career, he contributed to the modernization of the Mexican Financial System, while serving as its regulator and supervisor. As CFO and Treasurer at the Federal Mortgage Bank (SHF), he negotiated and managed loans from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Similarly, he championed financial inclusion among people with low and middle incomes as CFO and Treasurer of the National Savings and Financial Services Bank (BANSEFI). His government service included posts at the Ministry of Finance and at the National Banking and Securities Commission, as a member of its Financial Sector Supervisory Body. While a student, he started his professional career at PWC.

A former professor of Finance at ITAM, Mr. Guazo received an International Executive MBA from the IE Business School in Madrid. He earned a Master's degree in Business Economics from ITESM and graduated from ITAM in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting.



Andrea Meza Murillo

Deputy Executive Secretary

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Andrea Meza Murillo is Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Prior to joining the Convention, she served as Minister of Energy and Environment for the Government of Costa Rica. She brings over 20 years of expertise in sustainable development, having worked in more than 15 Latin American countries to formulate public policies, participate in international negotiations, and execute climate, conservation and restoration projects.

Previously, she held a number of senior positions, including Director of Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; Director of the Mesoamerican Office of the firm Studies, Projects and Planning EPYPSA; and Director of the Programme for Conservation of Private Lands at the Center for Environmental Law and Natural Resources. She is a lawyer with a specialization in local development. Ms. Meza Murillo has a notable history supporting UNCCD's work, especially around the Desertification and Drought Day 2021 hosted by Costa Rica, rallying up global ambition to restore degraded lands.



Kersten Jauer

Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG)

Kersten Jauer is the Deputy Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of the UN Secretary-General, where he plays a key role in helping the leadership setting priorities, designing strategies, and driving reforms. His focus areas include data, digital, and innovation. He leads significant projects like the Secretary-General's Data Strategy, the Complex Risk Analytics Fund, and the UN 2.0 change management agenda.

With a background in supporting UN humanitarian, development, and peace operations, Kersten's experiences in the Central African Republic, Sudan, Timor-Leste, and South Sudan inform his current role. Before the UN, he worked in banking and consulting. Kersten holds degrees in International Relations and Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and studied business administration at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management.



Silke Weinlich

Deputy Director, Learning and Knowledge Services

United Nations System Staff College

Silke Weinlich is the Deputy Director, Learning and Knowledge Services at the United Nations System Staff College.

Prior to joining UNSSC, she worked extensively on issues related to United Nations processes and reforms in various policy fields ranging from peace keeping and peacebuilding to sustainable development.

Her research interests have focused on the reform of the UN development system and broader questions of multilateral development, as well as global governance with particular focus on sustainable development.

Prior to her appointment with UNSSC, Ms. Weinlich was a Senior Researcher at [IDOS](#), the German Institute for Development and Sustainability, where she led a research and policy advice project on the UN development system and its reform needs.

Before joining IDOS, she helped set up the Centre for Global Cooperation Research at the University Duisburg-Essen where she headed the research unit “The (im)possibility of cooperation”.

Ms. Weinlich holds a doctorate in political science, with a specialization in international relations, from Bremen University, and a master’s degree in political science from the Free University Berlin. A German national, she is married with two children.



Sabine Bhanot

UNLOCK Coordinator

United Nations System Staff College

Sabine Bhanot is leading the UNLOCK initiative (UN Laboratory for Organizational Change and Knowledge), a project of the UN System Staff College. As the UNLOCK coordinator, she is responsible for convening the UNLOCK network of UN change managers, advisory services and change management learning programmes of the UN System Staff College.

Sabine has worked as an internal consultant, facilitator and Head of Learning for more than 25 years in ILO, UNICEF, OCHA, UN Secretariat, UNFCCC and the Staff College. She designed and facilitated change processes in UN country offices, with Humanitarian Country Teams as well as in Headquarter for a number of organisations in the area of organisational repositioning, organisational health, HR processes and ethics.

She has a Masters in Political Science from Berlin University and numerous certificates in International Development Management, Organisational Development as well as Systemic Coaching and Change. She completed a certificate in coaching from Cologne University.