



# PARTICIPANT GUIDE

14 JULY 2020

## WOMEN RISE FOR ALL EVENT

Convened by the United Nations

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE WOMEN RISE FOR ALL EVENT

**Convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed**, this event will bring together influential women leaders from around the globe to share how their leadership is shaping the COVID-19 response and what it will take to build back better. Global, Local and Intergenerational—Women Rise for All will take on critical issues facing our world.

The Women Rise for All Event is supported by the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), a global gateway to co-create opportunities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Virtual Meeting Information

The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. (New York, EDT) on Tuesday, 14 July 2020 and is expected to end at 10:40 a.m.

## Meeting Access

Registered participants will be able to join the event. Everyone who has registered will receive a link and access details prior to the event.

Everyone is invited to register at: <https://womenriseforall.eventfinito.co/register>

## Interactions with the speakers

There will be a “Send your questions” box at the event website, located on the lower bottom of the screen. You are invited to share your questions during the event and the speakers can read through the questions and respond.

## Media arrangements and services

For media inquiries, please contact Martina Donlon, UN Department of Global Communications: donlon@un.org.

## Additional information

Should you require any further information or if you have any questions related to the Women Rise For All Event, please visit the [website](#) or email [riseforall@un.org](mailto:riseforall@un.org).

## CONCEPT NOTE



# WOMEN RISE FOR ALL

Convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General  
Amina J. Mohammed

**14 JULY 2020 AT 8.00 – 10.40 AM EDT**

**We are women leaders rising in solidarity to save lives and protect livelihoods. We call for all leaders to meet the human crisis of COVID-19.**

Women are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response and recovery. Saving lives as first responders. Finding solutions as innovators. Facing the pandemic as political leaders. Countries with women leaders have had fewer deaths and are on track to a faster economic recovery.

The **Women Rise for All Event** brings together women from all sectors in recognition of frontline leadership that is winning against COVID-19 and is inspiring the action required to come out of the pandemic stronger as part of Decade of Action to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

A new and interactive event convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General gathers influential women leaders from around the world to look at how their leadership is shaping the COVID-19 response and what it will take to build back better. From local to global—Women Rise for All will take on critical issues facing our world.

Discussions will also focus on how these dialogues can inform and influence the transformation of our response and can support inclusion and sustainability beyond the pandemic and into the Decade of Action to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Be inspired to lead.**

# RUN OF SHOW

COVID-19 has been a test of leadership. Let's talk about what we expect from leaders today. One thing we know, there's no going back to the status quo.

As Christine Lagarde said, "The worst is behind us and the hardest is still to come."

## OPENING SESSION

### **A Global and Local Perspective for All**

**How women leaders globally and locally are winning against #COVID on the health and socio-economic fronts.**

The complexity of COVID-19 requires multi-dimensional solutions in an interconnected world. What has made these leaders successful and what are their plans for building back stronger?

## OPENING REMARKS (8.00 AM – 8:30 AM EDT)

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

**Amina J. Mohammed**



Prime Minister of Barbados

**Mia Mottley**



President of the Swiss Confederation

**Simonetta Sommaruga (via video message)**



Former President of Liberia, Nobel Peace Laureate,  
Member of The Elders

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**



Moderator:

**Zain Verjee**

Renowned journalist and former CNN anchor



**Opening Panel Discussion moderated by Zain Verjee: Global and Local Leadership in action – COVID-19 and beyond (8.30 AM – 9.10 AM EDT)**



**Bola Adesola**

Senior Vice-Chairman, Africa  
Standard Chartered Bank Group  
Vice-Chair UN Global  
Compact Board



**Inger Andersen**

Executive Director of UNEP



**Leymah Gbowee**

Nobel Peace Laureate  
Founder Gbowee Peace  
Foundation  
Sustainable Development  
Goals Advocate of the  
Secretary-General Alumni



**Bonnie Henry**

Provincial Health Officer for  
British Columbia, Canada



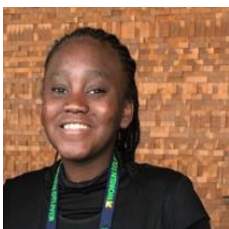
**Muniba Mazari**

National UN Women  
Ambassador, Pakistan



**Mariana Mazzucato**

Professor in the Economics of  
Innovation and Public Value at  
University College London



**Natasha Wang Mwansa**

Executive Director and Founder  
of the Natasha Mwansa  
Foundation



**KK Shailaja**

State Minister for Health and  
Social Justice Kerala, India

## KEYNOTE SESSION (9:10 AM – 9:25 AM EDT)

### **Why we need intergenerational leadership now.**

Crises emphasize the need for change. Young leaders are the inheritors of the world that we will reimagine together. How do we make this happen?

**Session introduction:** Annemarie Hou,  
Executive Director a.i., UN Office for Partnerships

**Introduction of keynote speaker:** DSG Amina J. Mohammed

**Keynote speaker:** Graça Machel



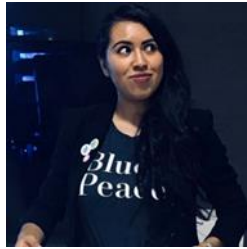
Chair of the Graça Machel Trust, Deputy Chair of The Elders and Sustainable Development Goals Advocate of the United Nations Secretary-General

**Keynote Panel Discussion moderated by Zain Verjee: Intergenerational leadership to collectively reimagine our world (9.25 AM – 10.05 AM EDT)**



**Jennifer Cassidy**

Lecturer at the University of Oxford and Founding Member of the Oxford Digital Diplomacy Research Group



**Joyce Mendez**

General Director and Co-Founder of ENERLAM and a researcher at the Latin American Energy Observatory



**Alaa Murabit**

Medical Doctor and Sustainable Development Goals Advocate of the United Nations Secretary-General  
CEO, Impact2030



**Wawira Njiru**

Founder and Executive Director of Food4Education



**Sanda Ojiambo**

CEO of United Nations Global Compact



**Ghada Waly**

Executive Director of UNODC  
Director-General of UNOV



## LEADERSHIP ADVICE (10.05 - 10.25 AM EDT)

A conversation about leadership and reflection about what was shared today. Taking questions from the Women Rise for All Event chat. Moderated by Zain Verjee.



**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

Executive Director of UN Women



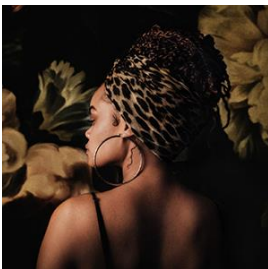
**Jayathma Wickramanayake**

UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

## INSPIRATIONAL (10.25 - 10.35 AM EDT)

**A dialogue between Dia Mirza and Andra Day and a performance by Andra Day**

Rise up. Because anything is possible – [68 million views](#) since this powerhouse released Rise Up in 2015.



**Andra Day**

Award-winning Singer, Songwriter, Actor, and Advocate for the COVID-19 response.



**Dia Mirza**

Award-winning Actor, Producer, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, and Sustainable Development Goals Advocate of the United Nations Secretary-General

## LAST WORD LOOKING FORWARD

**Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed**

# SPEAKER BIOS

## Women Rise for All Speaker Bios In alphabetical order

### Convened by:

#### **Amina J. Mohammed**

United Nations  
Deputy Secretary-  
General

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

Former Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment, and conserving resources for sustainable development.

Led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of [the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/dsg/index.shtml>

@AminaJMohammed



#### **Bola Adesola**

Senior Vice-  
Chairman, Africa,  
Standard Chartered  
Bank Group

Vice-Chair of the UN  
Global Compact  
Board

Senior Vice-Chairman, Africa of Standard Chartered Bank Group

Appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Ltd in March 2011.

Former Executive Director in First Bank of Nigeria Plc responsible for the Corporate Banking business, and later managing the entire business in the Lagos Directorate including retail, corporate and commercial banking.

Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers Nigeria and sits on the Board of the Financial Markets Dealers Association.

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/about/governance/board/members/bios#adesola>



## Inger Andersen

Executive Director of  
UNEP

Executive Director of the United Nations  
Environment Programme (UNEP)

Director General of the International Union for  
Conservation of Nature since 2015, Ms.  
Andersen brings a passion for conservation  
and sustainable development with more than  
30 years of experience in international  
development economics, environmental  
sustainability, and policymaking.

Held various leadership positions at the World  
Bank and United Nations, most recently as Vice  
President of the Middle East and North Africa  
Region at the World Bank (2011-2015) and  
Vice President for Sustainable Development  
and Head of the Consultative Group of  
International Agricultural Research Fund  
Council (2010-2011).

[https://www.unenvironment.org/people/inger-  
andersen](https://www.unenvironment.org/people/inger-andersen)

[@andersen\\_inger](#)



## Jennifer Cassidy

Lecturer at the  
University of Oxford  
and Founding  
Member of the  
Oxford Digital  
Diplomacy Research  
Group

Lecturer in International Relations at the  
University of Oxford (St Peter's College).  
Received her PhD from the University of Oxford  
focused on the changing nature of diplomacy in  
the information age and examining the  
digitization of diplomatic communication during  
times of political crisis.

Served as a Political Attaché to Ireland's  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations (New  
York), Human Rights Attaché to the European  
External Action Service to the Kingdom of  
Cambodia, and Ireland's Department of Foreign  
Affairs and Trade Headquarters. Is currently a  
founding and active member of Oxford's Digital  
Diplomacy Research Group.

[https://centreforfeministforeignpolicy.org/adviso  
ry-council](https://centreforfeministforeignpolicy.org/advisory-council)@OxfordDiplomat



## Andra Day

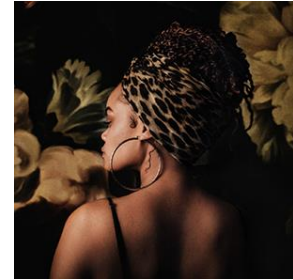
Award-winning Singer, Songwriter and Actor and Advocate for the COVID-19 response.

American singer and songwriter from San Diego, California. Her debut album, Cheers to the Fall, was released in 2015 and peaked at number 48 on the US Billboard 200 chart.

At the 2016 Grammy Awards, the album was nominated for Best R&B Album and the album's main single, "Rise Up", was nominated for Best R&B Performance. Day also appeared alongside Stevie Wonder, who is partially credited for her discovery, in an ad for Apple TV in late 2015.

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/andra-day-mn0003200736/biography>

[@AndraDayMusic](#)



## Leymah Gbowee

Nobel Peace Laureate

Founder Gbowee Peace Foundation

Sustainable Development Goals

Advocate of the Secretary-General Alumni

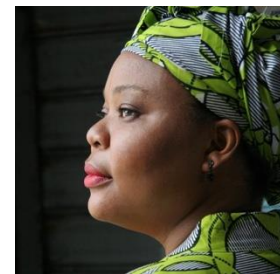
A 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, a peace activist, trained social worker, and women's rights advocate.

Led Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace and brought together Christian and Muslim women in a non-violent movement that played a pivotal role in ending Liberia's civil war in 2003.

Founder and current President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, founder of the Liberia Reconciliation Initiative, and co-founder and former Executive Director of Women in Peacebuilding Network/West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/laureate/leymah-gbowee/>

[@LeymahRGbowee](#)



## **Bonnie Henry**

Provincial Health  
Officer for British  
Columbia, Canada

Dr. Bonnie Henry was appointed as the first woman provincial health officer for the Province of BC effective February 1, 2018.

Joined Toronto Public Health in September 2001 as an associate medical officer of health where she was responsible for the Emergency Services Unit and the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit. In 2003, she was the operational lead in the response to the SARS outbreak in Toronto. Was a member of the executive team of the Ontario SARS Scientific Advisory Committee.

Worked internationally including with the WHO/UNICEF polio eradication program in Pakistan and with the World Health Organization to control the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

Associate professor at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine.

[@DrBonnieHenry](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/biographies)



## **Annemarie Hou**

Executive Director  
a.i., UN Office for  
Partnerships

Senior  
Communications  
Adviser, Executive  
Office of the UN  
Secretary-General

Annemarie Hou is the Executive Director a.i. of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, a global platform for co-creating opportunities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

Also, she serves as Senior Communications Adviser in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at the United Nations.

Most recently she served as Chief of Staff for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Prior, Ms. Hou worked in the philanthropic field, both as the Global Health Communications Manager at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and as the family's spokesperson. An award-winning writer she started her career as a television journalist.

<https://www.un.org/partnerships/>

@annemarie\_hou



**Ellen Johnson  
Sirleaf**

Former President of  
Liberia  
Nobel Peace  
Laureate

The first elected female head of state in Africa that has been in office since 16 January 2006. She won a second term in 2011.

President Sirleaf was jointly awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen. Also Chairs the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and is serving a second two-year term as Goodwill Ambassador for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa.

Ranked among the top 100 most powerful women in the world (Forbes 2012); the first most powerful woman in Africa (Forbes Africa 2011); among the 10 best leaders in the world (Newsweek 2010); among top 10 female leaders (TIME 2010); called "the best President the country has ever had" (The Economist 2010); and as one of the six "Women of the Year" (Glamour 2010).

[https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2011/johnson\\_sirleaf/lecture/](https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2011/johnson_sirleaf/lecture/) @MaEllenSirleaf



**Graça Machel**

Chair of the Graça  
Machel Trust  
Deputy Chair of The  
Elders  
Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Advocate of the  
United Nations  
Secretary-General

First Minister of Education of Mozambique (1975-1989), and an international advocate for women's and children's rights.

Ms. Machel was a founding member of The Elders together with her husband Nelson Mandela. She also founded the Graça Machel Trust and was a Member of the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

As a member of the AU Panel of Eminent African Personalities, Ms. Machel played a critical role in the mediation of the crisis following Kenya's December 2007 elections. She is also a UN independent expert on the impact of armed conflict on children, international advocate for women's and children's rights.

<https://www.unsdgadvocates.org/graca-machel>  
[@G MachelTrust](#)



## **Muniba Mazari**

National Ambassador  
UN Women Pakistan

Pakistani activist, anchor, artist, model, singer, and motivational speaker, she became the National Ambassador for UN Women Pakistan after being shortlisted in the 100 Inspirational Women of 2015 by BBC. She also made it to the Forbes 30 under 30 list for 2016.

Ms. Mazari also supports the well-being of under-privileged children and their education. She has spoken out across Pakistan on important issues including gender inequalities and discrimination.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/goodwill-ambassadors/muniba-mazari>

@muniba\_mazari



## **Mariana Mazzucato**

Professor in the  
Economics of  
Innovation and Public  
Value at University  
College London

Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL) where she is the Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose (IIPP). Her previous posts include the RM Phillips Professorial Chair at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at Sussex University. She is a selected fellow of the UK's Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS) and of the Italian National Science Academy (Lincei)..

Winner of international prizes including the 2018 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought and the 2019 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values. She was named as one of the '3 most important thinkers about innovation' by the New Republic and one of the 25 leaders shaping the future of capitalism by *Wired*.

<https://marianamazucato.com/>

@MazzucatoM



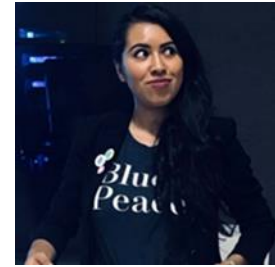
### **Joyce Mendez**

General Director and Co-Founder of ENERLAM and a researcher at the Latin American Energy Observatory.

Techno-activist, TedEx lecturer and social entrepreneur working on transboundary cooperation in the water-energy-food nexus. Young Climate Ambassador and Board Member of the Center for United Nations Constitutional Research (CUNCR).

Co-Founder of the following organizations: Paraguayan Youth Network for Water, Latin American Observatory of Geopolitics of Energy, Foz do Iguaçu Environmental Observatory and the Youth Collective of the Parana Basin 3.

<http://enerlam.org/index.php/boardmembers/@JoyceNajmMendez>



### **Dia Mirza**

Award-winning Actor, Producer, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador & Sustainable Development Goals Advocate of the United Nations Secretary-General

Award-winning Actor, Producer, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador & United Nations Secretary-General Advocate for Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Mirza is a committed voice for change and has contributed her efforts in the field of social change, conservation, and the environment. She is the face of many pivotal environmental campaigns across India and has worked towards the conservation of wildlife.

UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and a Sustainable Development Goals Advocate. Has become the voice of environmental and wildlife conservation in the country and a torchbearer for causes related to nature.

<https://www.unsdgadvocates.org/dia-mirza>

[@deespeak](#)





**Phumzile Mlambo-  
Ngcuka**

Executive Director of  
UN Women

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. Ms. Mlambo-  
Ngcuka has worked in government and civil  
society, and with the private sector, and was  
actively involved in the struggle to end  
apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

Served as the Deputy President of South Africa  
from 2005 to 2008; as Minister of Minerals and  
Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister  
in the Department of Trade and Industry from  
1996 to 1999; and was a Member of Parliament  
from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa’s first  
democratic government.

Completed her PhD on education and  
technology at the University of Warwick, United  
Kingdom.

[https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-  
us/directorate/executive-director/ed-bio](https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/directorate/executive-director/ed-bio)

@phumzileunwomen



**Mia Mottley**

Prime Minister of  
Barbados

Prime Minister of Barbados. Served as leader  
of the opposition Barbados Labor Party from  
2008-2010 and again from 2013-2018 and was  
a Member of Parliament.

The eighth person to hold the position of Prime  
Minister in Barbados and the first woman to  
hold the position—is also the fifth female head  
of government in the English- speaking  
Caribbean.

From 1994 to 2008, she held a succession of  
ministerial portfolios, including as Deputy Prime  
Minister, Attorney General, Minister of Home  
Affairs, Minister of Education, and Minister of  
Economic Affairs and Development.

<https://pmo.gov.bb/>

@miaamormottley



## **Alaa Murabit**

Medical Doctor  
Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Advocate of the  
United Nations  
Secretary-General  
CEO, Impact2030

Medical doctor, Canadian Meritorious Service Cross recipient and a UN High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment & Economic Growth. With a strong focus on challenging societal and cultural norms, Dr. Murabit champions women's participation in peace processes and conflict mediation as well as the role of local leaders to implement peace and security.

Founder of a global Mentorship Programme for emerging leaders and co-founded the Omnis Institute, an independent non-profit organisation committed to challenging critical global issues through the empowerment of emerging local leaders. Previously founded and spearheaded The Voice of Libyan Women at the age of 21.

<https://www.unsdgadvocates.org/alaa-murabit>

[@almmura](#)



## **Natasha Wang Mwansa**

Executive Director  
and Founder of the  
Natasha Mwansa  
Foundation

Journalist and award-winning advocate for health from Zambia.

Born and raised in Zambia. She received her diploma at Lusaka Secondary School and is taking a gap year before further embarking on higher education. As a Junior Reporter, Child Journalist, Child and Women's Rights Advocate, and an Activist at the Media Network on Child Rights and Development, she is responsible for gathering and disseminating information and tracking stakeholder progress. Through her work, she was selected to be part of the African Union Commission's Youth Advisory Board. Additionally, she also is the Social Accountability Monitor at Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Dissemination Service. As an advocate, Natasha is proud of being in the process of starting an initiative that will foster



young people to take radical action and foster positive change.

Natasha advocates for girls and women because she believes that girls have untapped power and will stop at nothing until it is unleashed.

<https://womendeliver.org/classmember/natasha-wang-mwansa/>

@TangWangMwansa

### **Wawira Njiru**

Founder and Executive Director of Food4Education

Founder of Food for Education, an organization that is feeding Africa's future by creating a sustainable model of efficiently providing locally sourced, high quality, nutritious meals to millions of African children in public primary schools.

Stanford school alumna, the youngest recipient of the University of South Australia's alumni award 2017, a 2018 Rainer Arnhold Fellow, a recipient of the Builders of Africa Award 2018 and one of 2018's Top 40 under 40 women in Kenya. The first recipient of the Global Citizen Youth Leadership Prize 2018 presented by Cisco.

<https://food4education.org/>

[@wawiranjiru](#)



### **Sanda Ojiambo**

CEO of United Nations Global Compact

Newly appointed CEO of the United Nations Global Compact. Previously, served as the Head of Sustainable Business and Social Impact, Safaricom Plc, Kenya since 2010. Former Senior Manager of Safaricom and MPESA Foundations, Kenya from 2008 to 2010, during which she led the implementation of several public-private partnership initiatives between Safaricom and UN organizations.

Holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota, USA, and a Bachelor



of Arts in Economics and International Development from McGill University, Canada.

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/4568-05-22-2020>

[@SandaOjiambo](#)

### **KK Shailaja**

State Minister for Health and Social Justice Kerala, India

Smt. Shailaja Teacher entered politics through the Students Federation of India and later became a member of the CPI (M) Central Committee. Current State Secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association and Joint Secretary of its Central Committee.

Previously authored two books- "Indian Varthamanavum Sthreesamoohavum" and "China- Rashtram, Rashtreeyam, Kazhchakal".

Former Chief Editor of "Sthree Sabdam" and also worked in Sivapuram High School in Kannur as a science teacher earlier. Previously elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly from Kuthuparamba in 1996 and from Peravoor in 2006.

<https://minister-health.kerala.gov.in/about/>



### **Simonetta Sommaruga**

President of the Swiss Confederation

Current President of the Swiss Confederation. Having served as President of the Swiss Confederation in 2015, this is her second term. In 2019, she also assumed the role of the Council's Vice Presidency.

A member of the Social Democratic Party, she has been a Member of the Federal Council since 2010. Served as head of the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications since 2019 and previously head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

<https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/federal-presidency.html>

[@s\\_sommaruga](#)



## Zain Verjee

Journalist and  
Founder, Zain Verjee  
Group

One of the world's most respected and recognized journalists, with an action-packed background and experience as a storyteller, entrepreneur, communicator, and interviewer.

Former CNN anchor and State Department correspondent, who has made a successful transition into the world of communications and creative entrepreneurship.

Founder of Zain Verjee Group, which builds communications products for emerging markets that empower citizens. A highly sought-after facilitator and interviewer that has spoken on platforms such as TED and Africa House. Startup founder and content creator, cofounding aKoma Media, a continental network of workspaces for Africa's creative and cultural economy, in 2015.

<https://www.csis.org/people/zain-verjee>

[@Zain\\_Verjee](#)



## Ghada Waly

Executive Director  
of UNODC

Director General of  
UNOV

Ghada Fathi Waly is the Director-General/ Executive Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)/ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) since 1 February 2020, following her appointment by Secretary-General António Guterres. She holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ms. Waly's work experience includes 28 years in the field of poverty reduction and social protection. She served as the Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt from March 2014 until December 2019. She also served as the Coordinator of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Justice and chaired the Executive Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs in the League of Arab States from 2014 to 2019.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>

[@GhadaFathiWaly](#)



**Jayathma  
Wickeramanayake**

UN Secretary-  
General's Envoy on  
Youth

Appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26. Originally from Sri Lanka, she has worked extensively on youth development and participation, and has played a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country.

Previously advocated for global youth development on an international level including as the first ever Sri Lankan Youth Delegate to the United Nations and as the youth lead negotiator and member of the International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 where she played a critical role in mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Process and the establishment of World Youth Skills Day.

<https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/about/>

@jayathmadw

