



United Nations Forum on
**HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY
and the RULE OF LAW**

GENEVA, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2021

**Third session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law on
“Equal access to justice for all: a necessary element of democracy, rule of law
and human rights protection”**

Biographies

Chairperson: Ms. Jan Beagle – New Zealand



Jan Beagle is the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She was elected in November 2019 and took up her position in January 2020. She started her career as a New Zealand diplomat and has some forty years of experience of multilateral diplomacy having served as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on System-wide Implementation of Chief Executives Board (CEB) Decisions; United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; Deputy Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management. She has also held senior positions in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Administrator of UNDP, and the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. Ms. Beagle has also played a leadership role in the interagency bodies of the UN system.

**Session 1: Equal access to justice: a foundation for human rights,
democracy, the rule of law and sustainable development**

Mr. Clement Voule – Togo



Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE, a Togolese national is the appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association. Prior to his appointment, he led the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) work to support human rights defenders from States in transition and also coordinated the organization's work in Africa as the advocacy director. He also worked as Secretary-General of the Togolese Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, as a campaigner for the Togolese Coalition for the International Criminal Court and as Secretary-General of the Amnesty International section in Togo.

Follow him on Twitter at @cvoule.

Ms. Janine M. Otalora Malassis - Mexico



Justice Otálora Malassis has extensive experience in the Federal Judiciary. She was Technical Secretary of the Federal Judiciary Council from 1996 to 2006. In the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary of the Federation, she served as Instructing Secretary of Ponencia in the Superior Chamber (2006-2013); presiding Magistrate of the Regional Chamber of Mexico City (2013-2016); and head of the Electoral Public Defender for Indigenous Peoples and Communities (2016). In 2016, she was appointed by the Senate of the Republic as Magistrate of the Superior Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary for nine years, a body she presided from November 2016 to January 2019. Internationally, she has served as Legislative Advisor to the Group of Republican and Independent Senators in the French Senate in Paris, France (1988-1991) and as Coordinator of Legislative Advisors in the same institution (1991-1996).

Moderator: Ms. Jan Beagle – New Zealand

See biography above.

Session 2: Making justice truly accessible to all

Ms. Fatmata Claire Carlton-Hanciles – Sierra Leone



Ms. Fatmata Claire Carlton-Hanciles is the first Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board since its inception in May 2015. She has overseen the establishment of offices in twenty-six cities and towns including the sixteen district headquarter towns. 552,324 indigent persons have benefitted from the scheme from its inception to September 2021. These make the Board the largest and most visible legal aid provider. The Board has carved a niche in the provision of primary justice services through the work of its paralegals. These include the monitoring of Traditional Courts to curb their excesses and the mediation of civil matters. Women and children benefit the most from mediation in respect of Child Maintenance, Inheritance and ownership of Property. The opening of Child Maintenance Accounts and securing of Court Orders for same has increased compliance and relief for children abandoned by their fathers. She is a lawyer of 23 year standing at the Bar.

Mr. Larry Salomon Pedro – Nicaragua



Larry Salomon Pedro belongs to the Indigenous Sumu-Mayangna people of Nicaragua. He graduated from the University BICU Bilwi, Nicaragua in 2017, and ever since has been committed to helping to resolve the struggle of the Awasitingni community in the recovery of ancestral lands that have been taken by the State and non-state actors. He was also involved in the Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua case ruled by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This judgement was the first to recognise the violation of an indigenous community's property rights. He provides legal assistance to his and other indigenous communities throughout the country. His work focuses on ancestral territorial recovery by way of administrative and judicial mechanisms at the domestic and international level. Currently, he is the legal counsellor of the AMASAU (Mayangna Awastingni community). He is currently professor at the BICU University, where he teaches Indigenous Law, International Law and Human Rights. He is the founder of an indigenous community school, which promotes capacity building of the Mayangna youth.

Mr. Joshua Castellino – India



Joshua Castellino is Executive Director of Minority Rights Group International and was Founding Dean of the School of Law, Middlesex University London (2012), where he retains his Professorship. He holds visiting academic positions in Poland, the UK and Ireland and sits on governing boards of civil society organisations in India, the Netherlands, UK, Norway, Hungary and Germany. He worked as a journalist in Mumbai before winning a Chevening Scholarship and completing his PhD in International Law in 1998. He has published eight books and over a hundred articles on international law and human rights over two and a half decades in academia, including the well-known Minority Rights Series published by Oxford University Press. He participated in the European Union China Diplomatic & Expert Dialogue on Human Rights (2002-2006); and was appointed Chair of the 8th United Nations Forum on Minority Issues (2015).

Moderator: Ms. Ana Maria Suarez-Franco - Colombia



Ana María Suárez Franco holds degrees in law from the Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá), as well as in public policies from the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá). She moved to Germany in 1999, where she has received an LL.M. from the University of Heidelberg and Doctor Juris from the University of Mannheim. Suárez Franco has been responsible for justiciability, country and case work at FIAN International, and currently she is the Permanent Representative of this organization at the UN Human Rights System, in Geneva as well as coordinator of the accountability work of the organization. She has participated the adoption of the ETO Maastricht Guidelines, the adoption of an International Declaration of Peasants Rights, the debates on nutrition and food security and supported preparation of parallel reports to the CESCRR and CEDAW. She has also supported the participation of social movements and community representatives in international debates in the frame of the UN Human Rights System.

Session 3: When emergency strikes: access to justice in times of crisis

Ms. Mihaela Laura Radu – Romania



Laura Radu is a judge at the Bucharest Tribunal and currently President of that Court; she has more than 20 years of managerial experience in the direction of courts. His professional experience is focused on civil disputes, family law and also litigation arising in the context of commercial relations. At the same time she is a judge trainer at the National Institute of the Judiciary and also she collaborates with the National School of Registry.

Ms. Hadeel Abdel Aziz – Jordan



Hadeel Abdel Aziz is a founding member and the Executive Director of the Justice Center for Legal Aid (JCLA). She has been the executive director since the establishment of JCLA in 2008. Hadeel has two BA degrees in Management and Law; she is the first Jordanian to be certified as a judicial administrator by Michigan State University. She has over 20 years of practical experience mainly focused in judicial reform, court automation and access to justice projects. Since 2008, JCLA has been specifically dedicated towards supporting access to justice through establishing a national network of legal aid clinics and advocating for an institutionalized state funded legal aid system in Jordan. Hadeel has been dedicated towards building a sustainable model for access to justice in Jordan, managing a national organization that has 13 legal aid clinics distributed across Jordan offering legal services to thousands of poor and vulnerable people every year.

Ms. Roselyn Hanzi – Zimbabwe



Ms. Roselyn Hanzi is a lawyer registered to practice law in Zimbabwe, employed by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) in Harare, Zimbabwe since 2007 and is presently working as the Director of ZLHR. She has managed the Human Rights Defenders, Institutional Reform and Policy Formulation portfolios. She holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree Honours from the University of Zimbabwe and Master of Laws (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) from the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and post graduate qualifications – Diploma in Transitional Justice from International Centre for Transitional Justice and a certificate in Legislative Drafting from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London

Moderator: Mr. Mark Stephens – United Kingdom



Mark Stephens, CBE is the deputy chair of IBAHRI. A British lawyer specializing in international commercial dispute resolution, media law, human rights and intellectual property, Mark has undertaken some of the highest profile cases in the UK and around the world defending the free expression rights of artists, journalists, and the rights of online publishers in libel cases. He currently heads the international and media department at London-based firm Howard Kennedy LLP.

Session 4: Broadening the horizons of access to justice

Ms. Sara Hossain – Bangladesh



Sara Hossain is a barrister practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, mainly in the areas of constitutional, public interest and family law, a partner at the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates, and serves pro bono as the Honorary Executive Director of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. Sara currently serves on several advisory boards, including the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Advisory Board of the Open Society Justice Initiative, and the Advisory Committee of the Women’s International Coalition on Gender Justice. She is also associated with regional and national civil society organisations, on the Bureau of South Asians for Human Rights, and as a member of the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and national human rights and legal aid organisations, Ain o Salish Kendra, and the Madaripur Legal Aid Association. She is a Bencher of the Middle Temple.

Ms. Collette Flanagan – USA



Collette Flanagan founded Mothers Against Police Brutality (MAPB) after her son, Clinton Allen, was shot to death by a Dallas police officer in March 2013. Clinton was unarmed, a 25-year-old Black father of twin boys. A former IBM executive, Collette Flanagan has, in a very short time, built MAPB into an inter-generational, multi-ethnic, multicultural organization with both a local, national and international presence. In 2020-21, Ms. Flanagan worked directly with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 43/1 on the “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Africans and People of African Descent Against Excessive Use of Force and Other Human Rights Violations by Law Enforcement Officers.” Ms. Flanagan was awarded the prestigious Champion of Justice Award this year by The Center for Justice and Accountability which recognizes extraordinary human rights defenders. With the founding of MAPB, and her subsequent work at home and abroad, Collette Flanagan has emerged as one of America’s most effective advocates for justice and human rights.

Ms. Lavanya Rajamani – India



Lavanya Rajamani is a Professor of International Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and Yamani Fellow in Public International Law at St Peter's College, Oxford. Lavanya specialises in the field of international environmental and climate change law. Lavanya has authored and/or edited several books and articles in this field, including the second edition of the Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law (OUP, 2021), the ASIL prize-winning co-authored book, International Climate Change Law (OUP, 2017), and Innovation and Experimentation in the International Climate Change Regime (Hague Academy/ Recueil des Cours, 2020). She serves as Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report and has also served as a consultant and legal advisor, among others, to the UNFCCC Secretariat and Alliance of Small Island States. She was part of the UNFCCC core drafting and advisory team for the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Mr. Pablo de Greiff – Colombia



Pablo de Greiff is the Director of the Transitional Justice Program and the Prevention Project at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice of NYU School of Law. He served as the first UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence from 2012 to 2018, as a member of the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) in 2015-16, and since 2019 serves in the UN Secretary General's Civilian Advisory Board. From 2001 to 2014, he was the Director of Research at the International Center for Transitional Justice. Pablo graduated from Yale University (BA) and from Northwestern University (PhD). He was an associate professor with tenure in the Philosophy Department at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he taught ethics and political theory. He was also Laurance S. Rockefeller fellow at the Center for Human Values at Princeton University and held a concurrent fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Moderator: Ms. Jan Beagle – New Zealand

See biography above.