

LDCs/SIDS BENEFICIARY DELEGATES SUPPORTED BY THE TRUST FUND
AT THE 53rd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC53)
(19 June – 14 July 2023)

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Antigua and Barbuda

Joy Dublin-Baptiste

Senior Crown Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers



Mrs. Joy Dublin-Baptiste joined the Attorney General's Chambers as Crown Counsel in 2017, when she assumed responsibility for matters of general litigation. She now serves as Senior Crown Counsel on the litigation team. In this capacity she works closely with the Antigua and Barbuda's Family and Social Services Division and is dedicated to providing practical assistance to the State's vulnerable, abused, and neglected children. Her interest in the rights of the most vulnerable was sparked when she taught children who were blind and/or visually impaired after completing her premier tertiary training in Education. Her core interests in disability rights and the issues faced by children in need are the foundational pillars upon which she has built her legal career.

Prior to her work in the public service, Mrs. Dublin-Baptiste worked as an Attorney in the chambers of James Dublin and Associates, where she gained a range of legal experience in the areas of civil litigation.

Mrs. Dublin-Baptiste, who is also a certified mediator, holds an LLM in Legislative Drafting from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill (2019) and an LLB (Hons) from the University of Wolverhampton (2006). She is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2009. After completing the Legal Education Certificate at Norman Manley Law School, Mrs. Dublin-Baptiste was called to the Bar of Antigua and Barbuda in 2010.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Benin

Andy Gérard Olouwatogni Agossou

Chef du Service des droits humains à la Direction des Affaires juridiques, Ministère des Affaires étrangères



Diplomate de carrière, Monsieur Andy G. Olouwatogni AGOSSOU est Conseiller des Affaires étrangères et a intégré le Ministère des Affaires étrangères en 2009. Il a occupé depuis sa prise de service plusieurs postes de responsabilité dont celui de coordination du Service des Organisations internationales à caractère social et culturel au sein de la Direction des Organisations internationales où il a contribué significativement, en lien avec les services nationaux compétents, à la mise en œuvre de la politique nationale de lutte contre l'abus des stupéfiants et des substances psychotropes et à une meilleure orientation des travaux du Comité d'éligibilité de la Commission nationale d'assistance pour les réfugiés. Il a également servi à la Direction de l'Amérique, et occupé le poste de Chef du Service des Etats-Unis d'Amérique p.i. où il était chargé des dossiers de coopération entre le Bénin et ce pays. De 2017 à 2020, il a occupé les fonctions de Conseiller/Chef de Chancellerie à la Délégation permanente du Bénin auprès de l'UNESCO où il avait la responsabilité de la gestion administrative, financière et protocolaire ainsi que celle de la représentation du Bénin au Comité du Siège de l'UNESCO.

Chef du Service des droits humains à la Direction des Affaires juridiques depuis 2022, il assure sous le leadership de sa hiérarchie le suivi de tous les dossiers liés à la promotion, à la protection et à la défense des droits humains. A ce titre, il a participé activement aux préparatifs du passage du Bénin en janvier 2023, au quatrième cycle de l'Examen périodique universel. Il joue un important rôle pour la réussite du mandat du Bénin en sa qualité de membre du Conseil des droits de l'Homme pour la période 2022-2024. Il représente le Ministère des Affaires étrangères au sein de divers comités traitant des questions des droits humains notamment le Comité technique de gestion de lutte contre la traite des personnes et le Comité Directeur national de lutte contre le travail des enfants.

The Gambia

Aji Adam Ceesay

Curator of Intestate Estate and Head of the Human Rights Unit, Attorney General Chambers and Ministry of Justice



Ms. Ceesay is a legal partitioner working with the Ministry of Justice. She joined the Ministry of Justice in 2012 and since then assumed many responsibilities in different departments at the Ministry. Currently, Ms. Ceesay is heading the Curator of the Intestate Estate Department as the Curator. She also leads the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Justice. Part of her responsibilities include representing the State in criminal, civil and international matters in national and international courts. Ms. Ceesay also participates in bilateral and multilateral negotiations on behalf of the Gambia Government.

As the Head of the Human Rights Unit, she coordinates the Gambia's Treaty Bodies reporting obligations under the Inter-ministerial Task Force. She also trains the police and other security agencies on human rights issues and domestic legislation.

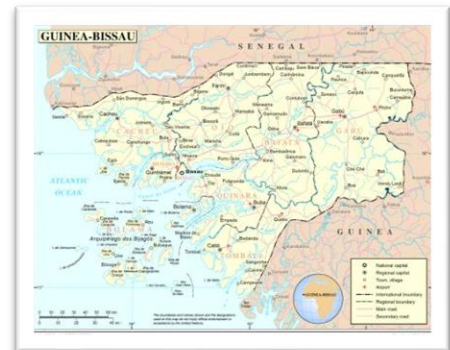
Ms. Ceesay obtained her LLB at the University of the Gambia in 2011, her BL at the Gambia Law School, and enrolled as Legal Practitioner in 2013.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Guinea-Bissau

Francisco Mendes

Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations, New York, USA



Francisco Mendes is a Bissau Guinean career diplomat, currently serving as Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations in New York, USA.

Mr. Mendes joined the Foreign Ministry of Guinea-Bissau in 2007 and was admitted to the diplomatic career in 2008. From 2008 to 2010, he worked as third secretary placed at the Division of Human Resources, in charge of Section of Personnel, and then served as Head of Human Resources Division from 2010.

Mr. Mendes attended the diplomatic training course at the Foreign Service Academy of Islamabad, Pakistan (2010-2011) and was promoted to second secretary in 2012. From 2016 to 2018, he served as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Guinea-Bissau to the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja, and as First Secretary at the same Embassy from 2018 to 2020, where he was in charge of ECOWAS/multilateral matters and served as head of the consular section.

From 2021 to present, Mr. Mendes serves as Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations in New York in charge of the 3rd and 4th Committees, and as election officer.

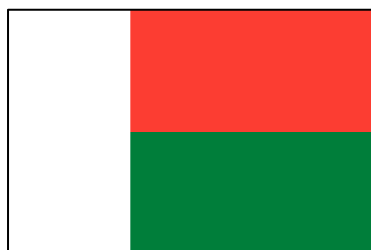
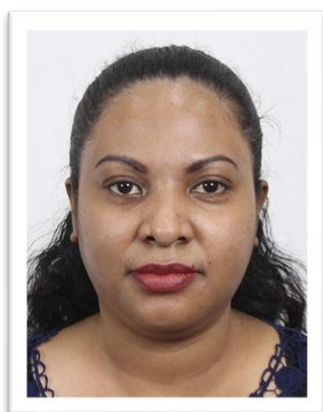
Mr. Mendes holds a B.Sc. in Political Science and is fluent in Portuguese, English and French.

This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and his first time in Geneva.

Madagascar

Rosà Randriamanarina

Chargée d'Etudes auprès du Service des Droits de l'Homme et des Affaires Humanitaires



Mme. Randriamanarina est titulaire d'un diplôme de Maîtrise en Management obtenu en 2011 et d'un Diplôme de Master en Sciences Sociales appliquées au développement, Option Population et développement, obtenu en 2015. Sa candidature a été retenue auprès du Ministère des Affaires étrangères en 2018, en tant que contractuelle.

Mme. Randriamanarina a par la suite suivi une formation d'Agents Diplomatiques et Consulaire de deux ans auprès de l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration de Madagascar (ENAM), et a obtenu son diplôme de Diplomate.

A compter du mois de juin 2023, elle a travaillé au sein du Ministère des Affaires étrangères en tant que Chargée d'Etudes auprès du Service des Droits de l'Homme et des Affaires Humanitaires.

Depuis le mois de septembre 2022, Mme. Randriamanarina a été désignée pour assurer l'intérim du Chef du Service des Droits de l'Homme et des Affaires Humanitaires.

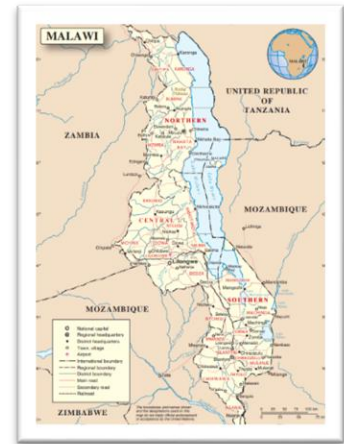
Elle participe pour la première fois à une session ordinaire du Conseil des droits de l'homme et il s'agit également de sa première visite à Genève.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Malawi

Angela Tamanda Kaunda

Chief State Advocate, Human Rights, Ministry of Justice



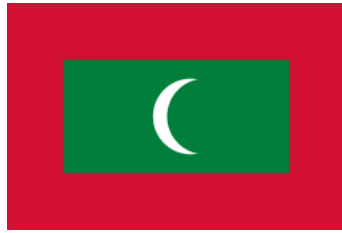
Ms. Kaunda is the head of the Human Rights Section at the Ministry of Justice, Malawi. She has served in the following positions: Legislative Counsel in the Legislative Drafting Section (2010-2018); seconded Junior Counsel, Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), Geneva (2014-2015); and Senior State Advocate, Civil and Criminal litigation (2008-2010). Prior to joining Malawi Government, she was a Research Assistant for Alun Jones, KC, Great James Street Chambers, United Kingdom (2002 to 2006). Among other responsibilities, Ms. Kaunda has coordinated Government's responses to human rights issues and facilitated Malawi's compliance to international obligations on human rights conventions which Malawi is a party to. Ms. Kaunda has represented Malawi at various local, regional and international human rights fora. She has also coordinated the drafting of various State Party reports for Malawi to the United Nations Treaty bodies and African Union, including the (third cycle) Universal Periodic Review Report (2020) and Malawi's initial report under the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (2022).

Ms. Kaunda holds an LL.B. (Hons) degree from the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom, (2001), an LL.M. degree in Banking and Finance Law from University of London, United Kingdom (2003) and a Post graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting, Commonwealth Secretariat (2010). Ms. Kaunda was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales (Honourable Society of the Inner Temple) (2002) and to the Bar of Malawi (2010).

Maldives

Nafha Hassan

Assistant Director, Human Rights Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ms. Nafha Hassan is an Assistant Director currently serving at the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, where she facilitates the execution of national foreign policy goals pertaining to human rights. Prior to working in the Human Rights Division, Ms. Hassan served the United Nations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over three years with the portfolio on execution of Maldives engagement at the United Nations. She has undertaken critical analysis on the resolutions adopted in the UN General Assembly sessions that inform policy decisions on emerging issues in the United Nations, including humanitarian issues deliberated in the Third Committee of UNGA.

Ms. Hassan joined the foreign service as a Desk Officer in September 2019 and has been an active player in mediating the engagement of Maldives in several agencies of the United Nations in coordination with the UN Country Team in the Maldives. Also, she has contributed to the campaigns that led to the election of the Maldives to the Presidency of the 76th United Nations General Assembly in 2021 and to the recent election of Maldives to the Human Rights Council session for the term 2023-2025.

During her time in the United Nations Division, she has had the opportunity to be part of the President's delegation to the 76th United Nations General Assembly and had the opportunity to participate in diplomatic trainings.

Ms. Hassan graduated from the Maldives National University with a B.A. in Political Science and International Relation and at present is completing her Masters in Political Science and International Affairs.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Mali

Diambéré SYLLA

Chef de Section Droit international à la Direction des Affaires Juridiques du Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale



Monsieur Diambéré SYLLA est Conseiller des Affaires étrangères en service au Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale de la République du Mali.

Il occupe depuis juillet 2022 le poste de Chef de Section Droit International à la Direction des Affaires Juridiques. Dans sa Section, il traite les questions relatives au droit international, aux droits de l'Homme, à l'Examen Périodique Universel et à l'élaboration des rapports initiaux et périodiques de mise en œuvre des Conventions internationales ratifiées par le Mali. Il a d'ailleurs été membre de la délégation malienne qui a pris part, en septembre 2022 à Genève, au dialogue interactif avec le Comité des disparitions forcées lors de l'examen du rapport périodique du Mali sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention internationale pour la protection de toutes les personnes contre les disparitions forcées.

Monsieur SYLLA est titulaire d'un Master Recherche et d'un Master Professionnel en Relations internationales, obtenus à Dakar (Sénégal). C'est en poursuivant une formation doctorale qu'il a été admis en 2018 au concours d'entrée à l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration du Mali.

Avant son intégration dans la fonction publique, il a été enseignant-vacataire à l'Université de Bamako et a milité au sein des organisations de défense des droits de l'Homme : le Consortium Action Droits Humains au Mali et le Groupe Agora de Recherche pour l'Education aux Droits de l'Enfant et à la Paix (GRA-REDEP) au Sénégal.

***Il participe pour la première fois à une session ordinaire du Conseil des droits de l'homme.
This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.***

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Kenneth Welles

First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations, New York, USA



Mr. Welles holds a Master's in Business Administration from National University in San Diego, California, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Eastern Oregon University. He had worked in the banking sector for many years before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia in 2019. Mr. Welles is currently serving as the First Secretary for the Federated States of Micronesia Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, USA.

In his current position, Mr. Welles liaises with his government on matters relating to human rights. He also assists the Ambassador and provides recommendations to capital on important matters that relates to their region and government.

This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and his first time in Geneva.

Nauru

Katherine J Belong

Human Rights Pleader, Department of Justice and Border Control



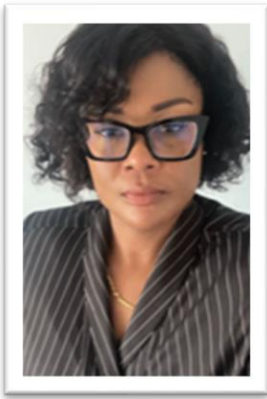
Ms. Belong serves her country as a Pleader to the Human Rights Office at Nauru Justice and Border Control and commenced her career initially as Human Rights Officer in 2019. She assists the Director of Human Rights in compiling and writing reports (Universal Periodic Review) for the country and in responding to questionnaires from UN special rapporteurs regarding human rights in Nauru. Ms. Belong graduated from Pleaders Course earlier this year (2023) and was promoted to the position of Pleader to the Human Rights Office in Nauru.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Suriname

Annelies Shirley Agwense

Senior Desk Officer at the International Organizations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation



Ms. Annelies Agwense is a Senior Desk Officer at the International Organizations Division, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname.

She has been charged, since 2017, with coordinating preparatory activities related to the annual General Assemblies of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. She also assists the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in human rights reporting on Suriname, in accordance with the treaty obligations arising from the human rights treaties to which Suriname is a party.

Furthermore, Ms. Agwense has served as a member of the delegation of Suriname to the 76th (2021) and 74th (2019) sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, to the Summit Implementations Review Group (SIRG) of the IX Summit of the Americas in 2021, and to the 48th Organization of the Americas General Assembly in 2018. She is also currently a member of the research team of the Bureau of the Agent of the State to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Ms. Agwense holds a Master of Public Administration in Governance obtained at the FHR Institute for Higher Education in Suriname in 2021, and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname in 2013.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.

Togo

Abdou Gafaou Akpaou

Directeur de la législation et de la protection des droits de l'homme au Ministère des droits de l'homme, de la formation à la citoyenneté et des relations avec les institutions de la République



Juriste de formation et actuellement en 2ème année de Master en Droit privé, option : affaires, Monsieur AKPAOU Abdou Gafaou est directeur de la législation et de la protection des droits de l'homme au Ministère des droits de l'homme, de la formation à la citoyenneté et des relations avec les institutions de la République au Togo depuis 2020. En cette qualité, il préside la Commission interministérielle de rédaction des rapports et de suivi des recommandations sur les droits de l'homme. Il a pris part à l'élaboration et à l'examen de plusieurs rapports du Togo dont le rapport au titre du 3ème cycle de l'examen périodique universel (EPU) en 2022 lors de la 40ème session du groupe de travail sur L'EPU et à l'adoption des résultats finaux de l'EPU du Togo en juin 2022, ainsi que du rapport initial sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées en mars 2023 à Genève en Suisse.

Monsieur AKPAOU fut successivement Chef de la division de l'assistance aux victimes et des relations avec la société civile (2014-2018) et Chef de la division de la législation et de la rédaction des rapports initiaux et périodiques (2018-2020) dans le même ministère. Il prend part en qualité de délégué d'Etat aux travaux des sessions ordinaires de la Commission africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples. Il fut enseignant (instituteur) de 2007 à 2014 et a obtenu son certificat d'aptitude à la pédagogie en 2010.

Il participe à l'élaboration et aux travaux en commission sur les lois à l'Assemblée nationale.

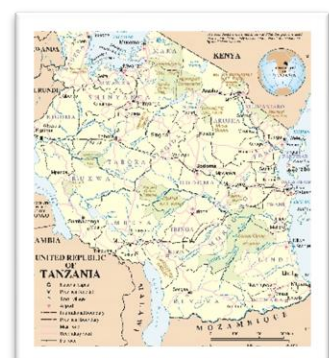
Vice-président de la Commission de recours pour les réfugiés (CRR) au Togo depuis 2020, il prend part aux sessions de ladite Commission pour réexaminer les dossiers de recours formulés par les demandeurs d'asile qui sont déboutés par la Commission nationale pour les réfugiés. Rapporteur de la Commission nationale de lutte contre la traite des personnes au Togo (CNLT) depuis 2022, il a représenté le Togo à une rencontre d'échanges régionales sur les bonnes pratiques en matière de lutte contre la traite des personnes à Niamey au Niger les 28 et 29 avril 2023. M. AKPAOU a participé en tant que représentant de la partie gouvernementale à la célébration du 20ème anniversaire du Protocole facultatif à la Convention des Nations Unies contre la torture placée sous le thème « Faire avancer la prévention de la torture en Afrique de l'Ouest : défis et voies à suivre » (Dakar, 16-18 janvier 2023). Il fut Observateur national de l'élection présidentielle de 2010 au Togo.

*Il participe pour la première fois à une session ordinaire du Conseil des droits de l'homme.
This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.*

Tanzania (United Republic of)

Bishara Mohamed Rashid

Good Governance Coordination Officer, President's office - Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Services and Good Governance



Ms. Bishara Mohamed Rashid is a Good Governance Coordination Officer in the President's Office Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Services and Good Governance under the Department of Good Governance. She holds a Master in Project Management from the Open University of Tanzania and a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work from the Institute of Social Work. She has been participating as a member in various committees of different themes such as the Gender Technical Committee in the Zanzibar Energy, Sector Transformation and Access Project, the Committees of the Zanzibar Good Governance policy review of 2011, of the Zanzibar Cooperate Social Responsibility Act of 2023, of the Anti Corruption and Economic Crime Act 2012, and of the Leadership Ethics Act 2017. She is also participating in advocacy on issues of human rights, receiving complaints and providing advice on the matters raised.

Ms. Rashid has attended various short courses and trainings within the United Republic of Tanzania and outside, including: Capacity Building for Enhancement of Leadership and Coordination Skills for Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency; Luanda Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officers by African Policy Civilian Oversight Forum and Commission for Human Right and Good Governance, Local Democracy and Self Governance provided by SIPU International, Stockholm Sweden; Good Governance provided by the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, South Africa; Management and Administration Training of trainers Course for HIV/AIDS program Managers provided by the African Region Capacity Building Network for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care (ARCAN) and Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI); and Youth Leadership Training by Friedrich Ebert Schtiftung Dar-es-Salaam.

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and her first time in Geneva.
