

Expert Workshop on the Right to Participate in Public Affairs, 18th May 2016 Speakers' Biographies

Session 1: The right to participate in public affairs and existing guidance

Mr. Olivier de Frouville
Member, Human Rights
Committee

Mr. Olivier de Frouville is a Professor of Public Law at the University of Paris 2 (Panthéon-Assas), Director of the Center of Research on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (C.R.D.H.). He is also a member of the Institut Universitaire de France (I.U.F.), undertaking a program of research called "On a democratic theory of International Law". Olivier de Frouville has worked for more than twenty years as a human rights expert in the United Nations. Previously between November 2008 and November 2014, he has been a member of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, of which he was the Chairperson-Rapporteur. Mr. de Frouville was also a member of the Coordination Committee of UN Special Procedures in the year 2013-2014. Between 2009 and 2015 he was a member of National Consultative Commission on Human Rights in France.

Ms. Wan-Hea Lee
Head, OHCHR
Cambodia Office

Ms. Wan-Hea Lee assumed her present function as Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Cambodia in June 2013. She has served in different capacities since joining OHCHR in 1994. When based in Geneva, she served predominantly in the Human Rights Treaties Division, providing support to the human rights treaty monitoring bodies of experts, in particular the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Elsewhere, she has served as Deputy Director of the Human Rights Section of the Integrated Office of the United Nations in Burundi (2008-2010), Acting Regional Representative of OHCHR in Asia-Pacific (2004-2005), and Human Rights Adviser in Mongolia (2002-2004).

Mr. Chad Vickery
International
Foundation for
Electoral Systems

Mr. Chad Vickery has extensive legal and international election administration experience with an emphasis on strengthening democracy and governance in transitioning societies. Mr. Vickery manages IFES' global applied research, technical leadership and strategic innovations initiatives. He specializes in designing and managing electoral integrity initiatives; election complaint adjudication programs; providing comparative legal analysis; working on elections; and rule of law programs throughout South Asia, Southeast Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East. Mr. Vickery's specific programmatic experience includes leading electoral integrity assessments and projects designed to ensure the development of impartial legal frameworks for elections, increasing professionalism of election management bodies, establishing effective election dispute programs and increasing political participation of historically disenfranchised groups into the electoral process.

**Ms. Katerina Hadzi
Miceva Evans**
Executive Director,
European Center for
Non-For-Profit Law

Ms. Katerina Hadzi-Miceva is the Executive Director at the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law and has been working closely with ECNL and its affiliate, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law since 2000. She currently implements programs on legal reform affecting civil society organizations (CSOs) in Central and Eastern Europe and particularly the Balkan region, as well as EU. She provides assistance in development of policies affecting the sustainability of CSOs and public participation by working closely with government officials, CSOs, judges, lawyers, and international donors in the region. She has been developing comparative analysis in

the areas of sustainability of CSOs and has experience in fundraising, planning and implementing projects within the frameworks of various project management models.

Session 2: Current challenges to the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs

**Ms Lenka Homolkova
Election Adviser, EU
Special Representative
for Afghanistan**

Ms. Lenka Homolkova currently works as Election Adviser to the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan. She has an extensive experience as election and human rights specialist with the EU, OSCE/ODIHR and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Africa, Asia and Europe. Among others, she assisted the election, human rights and democracy programming at the EU Delegation to Sudan and participated in various capacities in numerous EU and OSCE-ODIHR election observation missions - e.g. in DRC, Guinea, Montenegro, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Ukraine, Zambia and Burundi. Ms. Homolkova also engages in academic research. Her main areas of interest are elections and stability, electoral violence, electoral systems, laws, procedures and their political consequences.

**Ms. Pramila Patten
Member, CEDAW
Committee**

Ms. Pramila Patten has been a member of the CEDAW Committee since 2003. She is the Vice Chair of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Given her vast expertise in the area of women, peace and security, in 2014, Ms. Patten was appointed on the High Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. In 2009, she was appointed Commissioner by the Secretary General on the International Commission of Inquiry which investigated into the massacre in Guinea Conakry. Ms. Patten is a member of the Advisory Panel for the African Women's Rights Observatory of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. She has served on the Governing Council and the Executive Committee of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), both large Pan-African organizations. Ms. Patten is consultant for several regional and international organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, L'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie and International Commission of Jurists. Ms Patten has been a practicing lawyer in Mauritius since 1982.

**Ms. Catalina Devandas
Aguilar
Special Rapporteur,
the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities**

Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar is a lawyer by training and human rights advocate, who has worked extensively on disability issues at the national, regional and international level. Before taking up her duties as first Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on 1 December 2014, she was working as a Program Officer for Strategic Partnerships with the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, and was formerly with the United Nations Secretariat unit responsible for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the World Bank as a consultant for the Disability and Inclusive Development team for Latin America and the Caribbean region. Ms. Devandas Aguilar has previously served as a Board Member of the Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities representing the region in the International Disability Alliance.

**Mr. Dana Sofi
Reform Institute for**

Mr. Dana Sofi is the Chairman of the Reform Institute for Development, a think tank in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region that focuses on institutional reforms to increase

Development, Iraq

participation in the policy-making process. From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Sofi was a Member of the Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament, where he was head of the Civil Society Committee. In this role, he led the process of drafting and getting approval of the NGO Law, the Demonstration Law, the Compact of Cooperation and Development between Public Authorities and NGOs, and the Access to Information Law. Dr. Dana Sofi is the founder and president of the board of the Reform Center for Development and the head of the Transparency and Accountability Group, both civil society initiatives focused on local accountability and democracy in Iraq. Mr. Sofi has a PhD in Sociology from Stockholm University, where he served as a lecturer and researcher from 2005 to 2010.

**Ms. Alicia del Aguila
Journalist, V-Dem
Project**

Ms. Alicia del Aguila has over 12 years of experience working for international development organizations and NGOs, designing and implementing projects on democracy and development, gender equality, political inclusion, and mainstreaming gender, human rights and intercultural perspectives in public policies. She holds a PhD in Social Sciences and she has conducted academic research on gender and democratic governance, political parties and electoral process; indigenous peoples and intercultural approach; citizenship. Ms. del Aguila has written publications in Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, Ecuador, Chile, and USA. Currently she is country expert for Historical V-Dem Project.

Session 3: Innovations and trends on the right to participate in public affairs

**Ms. Beth Simone
Noveck
Co-Founder and
Director, GovLab
@NYU**

Ms. Noveck is Co-Founder and Director of The GovLab and its MacArthur Research Network on Opening Governance. The Jerry Hultin Global Network Professor at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, Ms. Noveck was formerly the Jacob K. Javits Visiting Professor at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a visiting professor at the MIT Media Lab. Ms. Noveck is a professor of law at New York Law School. She served in the White House as the first United States Deputy Chief Technology Officer and director of the White House Open Government Initiative (2009-2011). UK Prime Minister David Cameron appointed her senior advisor for Open Government, and she served on the Obama-Biden transition team. Among projects she's designed or collaborated on are Unchat, The Do Tank, Peer To Patent, Data.gov, Challenge.gov and the GovLab's Living Labs and training platform, The Academy.

**Mr. Fernando Mendez
Center for Research on
Direct Democracy
(C2D), University of
Zurich**

Mr. Fernando Mendez is a Senior Researcher at the c2d (Centre for Research on Direct Democracy). He also directs the eDemocracy Centre and is the coordinator of the Preference Matcher research consortium. He has led various projects funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) on aspects of direct democracy and coordinated a number of applied research projects in the field of e-participation. Currently, he is working on research project related to the European Citizens Initiative within European Commission Framework 7 project. Mr. Mendez has helped to develop Voting Advice Applications (VAA), which have been deployed across many parts of the world (including most of Europe and various Latin American countries as well as India). He was one of the project leaders of the recently launched EUvox, a VAA that was deployed across the EU during the European Parliament elections of 2014 (see www.euvox2014.eu and www.preferencematcher.org for more information).

Ms. Caroline Ouaffo Wafang
Regional Adviser,
OHCHR

Ms. Caroline Ouaffo Wafang is OHCHR Regional Gender Advisor in Dakar, who has worked on the media and negative stereotypes concerning women's participation in public life. She has worked extensively on the issues of women's participation in public life in the African region. As part of her programme on promoting an increased participation of women in political life, she conducted a mission in Burkina Faso to pursue the implementation of the DWELL Project - Direct Women Empowerment on Leadership and Learning. The project jointly designed with Oxfam, and implementation with the Coalition Burkinabe des droits de la femme, an umbrella of women's organizations, aims to improve women's ability to speak in public and also build their capacity on gender and women human rights monitoring for the 2015 legislatives and presidential elections in Burkina Faso.

Ms. Maria Luisa Sotomayor
Global Coordinator, U-report project, UNICEF

Ms. Maria Luisa Sotomayor works in U-Report Global Coordination team at Global Innovation UNICEF. U-Report is currently live in 23 countries and has more than 2,000,000 U-Reporters. Previously, she was responsible for piloting U-Report Chile at UNICEF Chile, and before that she managed for 5 years all communications and community work for Ciudadano Inteligente, a Chilean NGO which uses technology for promoting transparency, accountability and citizen participation. She's also a board member for Todo Mejora, NGO working to prevent adolescent homophobic bullying in Chile.