

SDG Learning, Training and Practice 2021 – HLPF Special Event 6-12 July 2021 during HLPF VIRTUAL EDITION

Opening session

6 July 2020, 8:30 – 10:15AM (EDT/New York Time)

Updated 24 June 2021

DRAFT AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	<p>Opening of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Marco A. Suazo, Head of Office, UNITAR NYO (Moderator) • H.E. Mr. Nikhil Seth, Assistant-Secretary General, Executive Director UNITAR • H. E. Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
9:00 a.m.	<p>Launch of the University Network for Sustainable Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Marco A. Suazo, Head of Office, UNITAR NYO (Moderator) <p>Keynote Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National University of Colombia – (TBC) • Pontifical Catholic University of Chile – (TBC) • University of Belize – (TBC) • University of Campinas (UNICAMP) – (TBC) • The University of the West Indies (TBC) <p>- Presentation of the platform about learning, exchanging, and partnering to be SDG learners today and SDG leaders tomorrow.</p> <p><i>The Network allows universities joining to be informed about other universities' achievements on SDGs learning activities, to create partnerships among one another, as well as with UNITAR, while improving their educational system with exclusive access to official UN learning material, documentation and resources around SDGs and Sustainable Development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Paula De Blas, UNITAR Consultant • Ms. Zhengqi Wang, UNITAR Consultant
10:00 a.m.	<p>Closing Remarks</p>

More info: [click here](#)

Biographies



Mr. Nikhil Seth was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for

these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up.

Mr. Seth's Division was also responsible for supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (Sept 1993 – Jun 2001), Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Jun 2001 – Jan 2003), as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the General Assembly (Feb 2003 – Aug 2006), and as Director of the DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Aug 2006 – Aug 2011), where he guided the ECOSOC's work in implementing several new key mandates, including its Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

Before joining the UN Secretariat, he was a delegate to the UN in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (Sep 1990 – Sep 1993) and involved with various UN conferences and summits including the Rio Summit on Environment and Development and the climate change related process. After joining the UN, he has been involved in the organization of the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the Mauritius Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Millennium Summit, World Summit on Sustainable Development and the UN World Summit, beside the Rio+20 Conference. He joined the Indian diplomatic service in 1980 and his diplomatic assignments included Geneva, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Before joining the Indian diplomatic service, he worked as a Lecturer in Economics in St. Stephen College, Delhi University for 2 years (Aug 1977 – Sep 1979).

Mr. Nikhil Seth holds a Masters degree in Economics from Delhi University.



Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Ms. Spatolisano has 33 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. She has served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section. She covered all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC and was also the EC

representative to the Fifth Committee. Since 2017, she has been responsible for International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in a number of international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20, where she represented the EU in the G-20 Development Working Group.



H.E. Mr. Marco A. Suazo, Head of UNITAR's office at the United Nations in New York

H.E. Mr. Suazo is a career diplomat in the Foreign Service of Honduras where he served in various positions at the Permanent Mission of Honduras since 1990, representing Honduras in the Security Council 1995-1996. He served as Deputy Ambassador until August 2015. He presided over the work of the Second Committee and the First Committee of the General Assembly. Besides being Adviser, at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs UNDESA UN. Mr. Suazo has written two publications, one for the 60th anniversary of the Organization in honor of founder-Honduras under the title "Nuestra Historia" (Our History); in

2013 he published "We the People" in which through photography, promotes the values and richness of Honduras and examines the participation of his country in the Organization. He is preparing his third publication dedicated to the history and documentation of Honduras for the Security Council of the United Nations under the title "Diplomacy Written" He currently serves as Head of UNITAR's office at the United Nations in New York.