

Biographies of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Lead Group Members

September 2022 - December 2024



Catherine M. Russell

Lead Group Chair

Executive Director, UNICEF

USA

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Catherine M. Russell became UNICEF's eighth Executive Director on 1 February 2022.

Ms. Russell brings to the role decades of experience in developing innovative policy that empowers underserved communities around the world, including high-impact programmes that protect women and girls, including in humanitarian crises. She has extensive experience building, elevating and managing diverse workforces and mobilizing resources and political support for a broad range of initiatives.

From 2020 to 2022, Ms. Russell served in the US government as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. She previously served from 2013 to 2017 as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State. In that post, she integrated women's issues across all elements of U.S. foreign policy, represented the United States in more than 45 countries, and worked with foreign governments, multilateral organizations and civil society. She was the principal architect of the ground-breaking "U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls."

Previously, Ms. Russell served as Deputy Assistant to the President at the White House under President Barack Obama, Senior Advisor on International Women's Issues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice, and Staff Director of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Before re-entering government service in 2020, she taught at the Harvard Kennedy School as an Institute of Politics Fellow. She also served as the board co-chair of the Women's Foreign Policy Group, as a board member of Women for Women International, as a member of the Sesame Street Advisory Board, as a member of the non-profit organization, KIVA Advisory Council, and as a member of the Thomson Reuters Foundation's Trust Women initiative.

Ms. Russell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, magna cum laude, from Boston College and a Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School.



Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina

President, African Development Bank

Nigeria

Term date: since 2016 to 31 December 2024

Mr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank's Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He took office at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan on September 1, 2015.

Mr. Adesina, 62, is a distinguished development economist and agricultural development expert with 25 years of international experience. He is the first Nigerian to serve as President of the Bank Group. He served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which time he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector.

Mr. Adesina has received several global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, UN SG Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals,

along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister, and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.

Mr. Adesina earned a first-class honours Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ife, Nigeria in 1981. In 1988 he completed a PhD in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University in the United States, where he won the Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for his research work. He also won the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 1988, which launched his international career in global agricultural development.

Adesina speaks fluent French and English.



H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

United Arab Emirates

Term date: since 2023 to 31 December 2024

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri is the UAE's Minister of Climate Change and Environment. She leads the nation's comprehensive efforts to accelerate climate action, safeguard ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen food and water security by developing and implementing impactful strategies, policies, and initiatives.

A member of the COP28 UAE Higher Committee, Her Excellency oversees the preparations for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be hosted by the nation in Dubai in 2023.

Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri draws on her wealth of experience as Minister of State for Food Security (appointed in October 2017) and as Minister of State for Food and Water Security (appointed in June 2020), directing investments in food and water technology innovation and building international partnerships.

Her Excellency represents the UAE at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA). She is a member of the Board of Directors of Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, the Boards of Trustees of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the UAEU Board of Trustees, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, and EAT, a science-based global platform for food system transformation. She also Chairs the Emirates Food Security Council, the Circular Economy Council, and the Emirates Council for Environmental and Municipal Action.

Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri has a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from RWTH Aachen University in Germany.





Inger Ashing

Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International

Sweden

Term date: since 2019 to 31 December 2024

A well-respected child rights activist, Ms. Inger Ashing has been associated with Save the Children for more than 25 years. Since then, she has been a member of the Board of Save the Children International and Save the Children Sweden. Before her appointment as CEO of Save the Children International in September 2019, Inger served as Director General at the Swedish Agency against Segregation, within the Swedish government, where she worked to advance cooperation between the government, municipalities, corporations and organisations to increase knowledge and to promote the development of evidence-based methods.

She also served as the National Coordinator for Youth Not in Education or Employment for the Swedish Government, Deputy Director General of the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society and the CEO of the Global Child Forum. Inger is a member of the Ethics Council at The Swedish Migration Agency, a member of the Delegation for the Employment of Young People and Newly Arrived Migrants.

She has been an expert to and board member of numerous authorities and committees such as the Delegation for Human Rights, the Swedish National Knowledge Centre on Violence against Children, the Swedish Enforcement Authority, the National Board of Institutional Care, and the Monitoring Committee for The European Social Fund.

Inger is married and has three children.



Cherrie Atilano

**Founder & Chief Executive Officer,
Agrea Agricultural Systems International Inc.**

Philippines

Term date: since 2019 to 31 December 2024

Cherrie Atilano is the founder and CEO of AGREA Agricultural Systems International, Inc., an agro-social enterprise that aims to help eradicate poverty for farming and fishing families in order to alleviate the effects of climate change and establish food security in the Philippines. AGREA has been mobilizing communities, businesses, academia, local and national governments, and international partners to bring an “Ecology of Dignity” to farming and fishing communities on the island of Marinduque.

Previously, Atilano worked as a consultant with the Department of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines and helped to form 241 cooperatives of smallholder farmers in the country. She started teaching farmers at the age of 12, has 19 years of vast experience in Sustainable Food Systems from organising smallholder farmers into sustainable cooperative, technology transfer, developing inclusive agri-business, connecting farmers to market, government support and financial institutions.

She is making farming desirable for young people and an advocate of agri-technology. She is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including Inspiring Filipina Entrepreneur in 2017, The Outstanding Women in Nation’s Service Award in 2016, and Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 2007. She graduated Magna Cum Laude, with a bachelor’s in agriculture from Visayas State University.



Gabriela Rodríguez de Bukele
First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador
 El Salvador

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Mrs. Rodríguez de Bukele is a prenatal and perinatal psychologist and educator, the founder of the first specialized center for early education in El Salvador in 2010 (PrePare), and a ballet dancer.

Her training and commitment to children have led her to promote actions, policies, and laws in support of young children, including the Crecer Juntos National Policy for Early Childhood Development, which addresses health and nutrition issues through the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and reduction of malnutrition. Other key initiatives deal with nutritional education, nutritional assessment, prenatal monitoring and checkups for pregnant women, promotion and consumptions of local and nutritious foods, access to water and sanitation, and the promotion of appropriate hygiene practices and eating.

The Nacer con Cariño Law, the first of these policy initiatives to be enshrined into law, promotes, supports, and protects breastfeeding as a main action to ensure food security and infant nutrition. In pursuit of these objectives, the law guarantees that babies can begin breastfeeding in their first hour of life.

Thanks to the First Lady's work and commitment, El Salvador is a guardian country of the lactation rooms at the United Nations Headquarters.



Martin Chungong
Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
 Cameroon

Term date: since 2016 to 31 December 2024

A Cameroonian national, Martin Chungong made double history by becoming the first-ever African and the first non-European to be elected as IPU Secretary General in the Organization's 126-year history.

With more than three decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international level, Mr. Chungong has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy world-wide.

Following a 14-year career span with the Cameroonian Parliament, Mr. Chungong has already spent more than 20 distinguished years at IPU. Prior to being elected as the eighth IPU Secretary General, he was the Organization's Deputy Secretary General and Director of Programmes.

Through his work on developing programmes to help parliaments become more transparent, accountable, representative and effective democratic institutions, he has become a leader in his field.

As Chair of the Management Committee on Accountability of the OECD Governance Network, Mr Chungong has further contributed to establishing governance benchmarks to strengthen democracy.

He has also built an impressive portfolio in the promotion of dialogue and conflict resolution, issues that remain at the heart of IPU's global work. His focus on particularly helping countries emerge from conflict or in transition has been widely acknowledged by the IPU membership and partners globally.

Since 2012, Mr. Chungong has made a push to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development and accountability through his role as Parliamentary Representative on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. He is also leading IPU's work to

dramatically reduce maternal and child mortality rates through effective legislation and its implementation and ensuring governments' accountability to international commitments in this area.

A recipient of the Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade, Ordre de la Francophonie, and a linguist by training, Mr. Chungong holds degrees from both the University of Yaoundé and the University of Ottawa.

With mother-tongue English and French, he also speaks Spanish. He is married to Stella Chungong, a medical doctor. They have two children.



Pierre Cooke Jr.

**Prime Minister of Barbados' Youth Parliament and Technical Advisor,
Healthy Caribbean Coalition**

Barbados

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Mr. Pierre Cooke, Jr is a Barbados health and human rights advocate. He recently completed his Bachelor of Law at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. He will be pursuing a legal certificate at the Hugh Wooding Law School to practice law in the Caribbean and Commonwealth.

The work he has done in the Caribbean and the wider world to raise awareness of childhood obesity prevention and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) amongst young people reflects Mr. Cooke Jr's commitment to advocate for the protection of the rights of young people and other vulnerable groups. Moreover, he has been working with major organizations, including the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, NCD Child, the World Health Organization, and the Pan- American Health Organization.

Mr. Cooke, Jr has been invited to speak across the world. His voice and unique perspective have influenced governments and civil society organizations in various countries and regions, including London (UK), the United Arab Emirates, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Americas. Pierre has served in youth leadership roles as Representative of the Faculty of Law at the Cave Hill Campus and Youth Prime Minister of the Barbados Youth Parliament. He is currently a youth advisor to the United Nations in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Mr. Cooke Jr's desire to see the development of equitable systems that respects and represents the rights and needs of all people drives his work. He hopes to one day use his wealth of knowledge to advance human rights protection in the Caribbean and across the world. To balance his work and personal life, Pierre frequents cafes and beaches across Barbados and enjoys a bit of travelling.



Githinji Gitahi

Group Chief Executive Officer, Amref Health Africa

Kenya

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Dr. Githinji Gitahi is the Group CEO of Amref Health Africa (Amref). Amref is the largest health development international NGO in Africa with a mission to increase sustainable health access to communities in Africa through solutions in human resources for health, health services delivery and investments in health. Amref improves access to health for millions of people in 35 African countries.

Dr. Gitahi worked in various positions in the health, media and private sectors. Prior to joining Amref, he was the VP and Regional Director for Africa with Smile Train International.

Dr. Gitahi is renowned as a leader on the global and regional front with notable achievements including former Co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee (a global World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) initiative for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)). He serves on a number of Boards, notably – Board of Directors of The Standard Group in Kenya, Board of Trustees of Safaricom Foundation, Governing Board of the Africa Centres for Disease Control

and prevention (Africa CDC) and was recently appointed to the Board of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). He serves on the Commission on Africa's COVID-19 Response and is a member of the Unilever Sustainability Advisory Council. Dr. Gitahi holds a bachelor's degree in Medicine from the University of Nairobi and a master's degree in Business Administration from the United States International University.

He is a vocal advocate for pro-poor Universal Health Coverage.



Sophie Healy-Thow

Youth Leader

Ireland

Term date: since 2019 to 31 December 2024

Sophie is a young Irish woman who is passionate about creating awareness about food security, particularly amongst young people.

Sophie is the Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator for the GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). She co-founded Act4Food Act4Change, a global youth led campaign which aims to transform food systems. This campaign has been mentioned on Forbes magazine and is being implemented globally.

Sophie serves on the Board of the leading international charity ActionAid UK and the Emergency Nutrition Network she was the co-chair of the UN Food Systems Summit Youth Liaison group.

Sophie is one of the 10 women leaders featured in the Disney book 'Choose to Matter' by ESPN presenter Julie Foudy which encourages young women to find the leader within and was recognised by TIME magazine as one of the most influential teens. More recently she was named by Food Tank as a Young Person Inspiring Change Across the Food System and spoke at the Nobel Peace Prize and the launch of the EAT Lancet 2.0 at Stockholm +50.

She is an excellent and inspiring communicator with strong leadership skills and a self-motivator with a drive and ambition to succeed.





Honourable Ahmed Hussen, MP

Minister of International Development

Canada

(PROCESS UNDERWAY TO CONFIRM OFFICIAL NOMINATION)

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen was first elected in 2015 to represent the riding of York South—Weston. He has previously served as Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, and as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

Minister Hussen immigrated to Canada in 1993 and settled in Toronto. He began his career in public service after high school, working with the Hamilton-Wentworth social services department.

Minister Hussen co-founded the Regent Park Community Council in 2002. He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his leadership efforts in the Regent Park community. As National President for the Canadian Somali Congress, Minister Hussen's results-driven reputation led to an invitation from the Toronto City Summit Alliance to join a task force for modernizing income security for adults.

After earning a law degree from the University of Ottawa, Minister Hussen practised law in the areas of criminal defence, immigration and refugee law, and human rights. He served as a director on the board of the Global Enrichment Foundation, an organization that has enabled women in East Africa to access education, on the board of Journalists for Human Rights, and on the Government of Canada's Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security.



Cindy H. McCain

Executive Director, UN World Food Programme

USA

Term date: since 2023 to 31 December 2024

World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, Cindy Hensley McCain, took office on 5 April 2023, and brings to the role a wealth of expertise and a deep commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition. Prior to joining WFP, she served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome.

A distinguished humanitarian, business leader and diplomat with a career spanning four decades, Executive Director McCain has championed a wide range of causes focused on alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development and peace. She has travelled the world witnessing frontline humanitarian programmes in action, including many run by WFP, and learning from the people whose lives have been transformed by them.

As Executive Director, she is capitalizing on her broad experience to lead the organization's response to the global food crisis. Hunger has soared to record levels, driven by conflict, climate change and economic strife, and raising resources and public awareness is vital as the organization strives to reach those in need. Executive Director McCain is spearheading the effort to mobilize support from long-standing donors while also forging ambitious new partnerships to sustain WFP's life-saving mission.

Before taking the helm, she held executive positions with a number of organizations. She is the former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University, where she oversaw the organization's focus on advancing character-driven global leadership based on security, economic opportunity, freedom and human dignity. She also chaired the Institute's Human Trafficking Advisory Council.

In addition to her work at the McCain Institute, she served on the Board of Directors of Project C.U.R.E, CARE, Operation Smile, Halo Trust and the Advisory Boards of Too Small To Fail and Warriors and Quiet Waters.



Mansur Muhtar

Vice President, Sector Operations, Islamic Development Bank

Nigeria

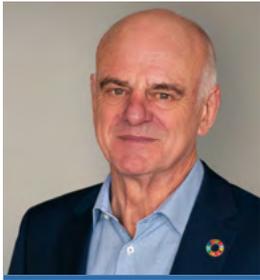
Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Dr. Muhtar previously served as Executive Director on the Board of the World Bank Group (2011-2014) as well as Co-Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance (2013-2014). He has served as Minister of Finance for the Federal Republic of Nigeria and as Chairman of the National Economic Management team (2008-2010), as Executive Director, African Development Bank (2007-2008) and as Director-General of Nigeria's Debt Management Office (2003-2007).

Earlier in his career, he was Senior Lecturer and Head of the Economics department at Bayero University in Nigeria and served for a decade in various positions at the World Bank headquarters, including as the Senior Economist and Administrator on the Young Professionals Program. He has also served as Deputy General Manager, Strategic Management and Economics division, United Bank for Africa Plc. And as a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for the Study of Economies of Africa in Abuja.

Dr. Muhtar holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Sussex in the UK and a master's degree in the Economics and Politics of Development from the University of Cambridge. He is also an alumnus of Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, and King's College, Lagos.





David Nabarro

Strategic Director, 4SD

United Kingdom

Term date: since 2012 to 31 December 2024

Dr. David Nabarro is Co-lead of the Food Workstream of the UN Secretary General's UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and Special Envoy on Covid-19 for the World Health Organization.

Dr. Nabarro has served as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and Coordinator of the Scale up Nutrition Movement. He also served as Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza. He was Coordinator of the UN system's High-Level Task Force on the Food Security Crisis for five years, beginning in 2009.

Previously he served at WHO headquarters in Geneva as the director of the WHO Department for Health Action in Crisis, Executive Director in the office of former WHO Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland and Director of WHO's Roll Back Malaria Department.

In his early career he worked on child health and nutrition programmes for Save the Children in Iraq, South Asia and East Africa; taught for six years at the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine; and served as Chief Health and Population Adviser to the British Government's Overseas Development Administration and as Director for Human Development in the UK Department for International Development (DFID). A physician who studied at Oxford and London Universities, Dr. Nabarro holds a Masters' degree in reproductive endocrinology and public health.



Sania Nishtar

Member of the Senate (Pakistan)

Pakistan

Term date: since 2016 to 31 December 2024

Dr. Sania Nishtar is a member of the Senate (upper house of Parliament) of Pakistan. From November 2018-May 22, she served as Special Assistant of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Federal Minister, where she held the Cabinet portfolio of Poverty Alleviation; in that role she founded and was responsible for implementing Ehsaas, the largest social protection program in the country's history, which reached out to 15 million households and was widely acclaimed internationally. She was also the Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program during that time.

Dr. Nishtar is former Chair of several multilateral initiatives: WHO's High-Level Commission on Non-communicable diseases; WEF's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Healthcare; U.S National Academy of Sciences Global Study on the Quality of Healthcare in LMICs; UN International Institute for Global Health's Advisory Committee; UN Secretary General's Independent Accountability Panel for Women's and Children's health and WHO's Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity. In 2017, she was Pakistan's nominee for Director-General of the World Health Organisation and was in the final shortlist of three.

She is founder of the NGO Heartfile and has received many international awards for her work and is widely published.

Sania Nishtar graduated as the best graduate in 1986. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and took a Ph.D at Kings College London. Her Alma mater, Kings College London honoured her with a Doctorate in Science, Honoris, Causa in 2019. In 2020 she was listed amongst BBC's 100 most influential women, globally.



Ndidi Nwuneli

Executive Chair, Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd

Nigeria

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Mrs. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli is an expert on social innovation, African agriculture and nutrition, entrepreneurship, and youth development. She has over 25 years of international development experience and is a recognized serial entrepreneur, author, public speaker, and consultant.

Mrs. Nwuneli started her career as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, working in Chicago, New York, and Johannesburg. She returned to Nigeria in 2000 to serve as the pioneer executive director of FATE Foundation, supporting young entrepreneurs to start and scale their businesses. In 2002, she established LEAP Africa to inspire, empower, and equip a new cadre of principled, disciplined, and dynamic young leaders in Africa and established NIA to support female university students in Nigeria to achieve their highest potential.

Over the past 14 years, she has focused on transforming the African agriculture and nutrition landscape. She has partnered with private and public sector organizations to implement ecosystem solutions in the African agriculture and food landscapes. As the co-founder of AACE Foods, which produces a range of packaged spices, seasonings, and cereals. As the founder of Nourishing Africa, a digital home for food and agriculture entrepreneurs operating on the African Continent, she is accelerating the growth of the ecosystem and supporting entrepreneurs in 37 African countries.

Her latest start-up is Changing Narratives Africa committed to changing global mindsets about Africa by showcasing the Continent's contributions to the global food ecosystem.

Mrs. Nwuneli serves on the boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), AGRA, Nigerian Breweries Plc., Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. India, Royal DSM Sustainability Board, Netherlands, and the African Philanthropy Forum.

She holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree with honours from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She was a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government at the Harvard Kennedy School, an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow and the McConnell Visiting Scholar at the Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University.



Alfredo Rimoch

Chief Executive Officer, Laboratorios Liomont

Mexico

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

Alfredo Rimoch joined Laboratorios Liomont in 1989 as Product Development Manager. In 1992 Mr. Rimoch was appointed head of Business Development and Associate General Manager until 1997 when he became Liomont's General Manager (CEO).

Before joining Laboratorios Liomont, he worked in the field of design as Head of Design for XYLLYX, United Kingdom PLC (Public Viewdata Company) from 1982 to 1984. From 1984 to 1989 he was part of the design group of Rank Xerox, UK in the New Products department, as well as partner in Diode Design Partnership acting as Design Consultant for various companies.

He was President and currently is a member of the Mexican Pharmaceutical Council (CFM), member of the Board of Directors of the National Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry (CANIFARMA), member and previous President of the Board of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Drugs Manufacturers (ANAFAM).

In the field of social responsibility, he has been a member of the UNICEF Advisory Board since 2002. He is member of the Advisory Council of the Junior League of Mexico A.C., previous Vice-president of the Mexican Foundation for Health (FUNSALUD), and council member of the Education and Sustainable Development Promotion Group (GRUPEDSAC). He is an advocate for healthy nutrition and breastfeeding in Mexico.

Mr. Rimoch has graduated from the Universidad Iberoamericana as Industrial Designer and holds post-graduate degrees in Multimedia: Film, Television and Animation at Croydon College of Design and Technology, Croydon, England, and an MA degree in Industrial Design Engineering from Central Saint Martins, London, England.



Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko

Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission

Angola

Term date: since 2019 to 31 December 2024

H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, an Angolan national, is a leading African Agronomist and Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, African Union Commission. Prior to her re-election in February 2021, she was Special Adviser to two Ministers in Angola: the Minister of Environment responsible for Climate Change and the Minister of Agriculture in charge of Food Security and Poverty Reduction. Ambassador Sacko was also the former Secretary General of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), in Côte d'Ivoire, for 13 years.

In recognition of her meritorious service, Ambassador Sacko has received numerous awards and recognition including member of the United Nation's Champions 12.3 and the Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group. She was named one of the 100 most influential people in climate policy in March 2019 and awarded the Prix de la Fondation 2019 on the occasion of the Crans Montana African Women's Forum for her efforts to empower rural women.



Feike Sijbesma

Honorary Chairman, Royal Dutch DSM

Netherlands

Term date: since 2016 to 31 December 2024

In 1987, he joined the Industrial Pharmaceuticals division of Royal Gist-brocades NV, where he was responsible for strategic planning and business development. From 1990 to 1993, he was appointed the division's Marketing & Sales Director. Thereafter (1993) he was given leadership of Savory Ingredients, later on a business unit of Gist-brocades' Food Specialties Division. In 1995, he was made director of that division and joined the Gist-brocades' Executive Committee. Following the acquisition by DSM in 1998, he became Director of the business group DSM Food Specialties.

In 2000, Sijbesma joined the Managing Board of DSM, responsible for the food and pharma activities. In 2002 and 2003 he led the acquisition of the vitamins & fine chemicals division of the Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche. In subsequent years, he led from Basel (Switzerland) the integration of this division into DSM, in addition to his other responsibilities as a member of the Managing Board. From 2007 to 2022 Feike Sijbesma served as the CEO of DSM.

Feike Sijbesma has transformed DSM and its portfolio through various divestments and acquisitions. Under his leadership, DSM repositioned itself from a chemical company into a Life Sciences & Materials Sciences company, focusing on health, nutrition & materials, expressed in a new brand of which "Bright Science. Brighter Living" forms the core. Feike Sijbesma sees sustainability as both a responsibility and a business driver. Feike Sijbesma has given purpose to the company by the DSM's involvement in amongst other things malnutrition and climate change. He also considers it important for business to have more women at the top and he sees diversity as increasingly important for DSM as an innovative company. He is committed to develop science as a basis for innovation in order to create brighter lives for people today and generations to come. Currently M. Sijbesma serves as Strategy Advisor to Africa Improved Foods.

Feike Sijbesma is married and has two sons.





Gunhild Stordalen

President and Founder of EAT Foundation

Norway

Term date: since 2016 to 31 December 2024

Gunhild A. Stordalen is the founder and executive chair of EAT. She is a driving force linking climate, health and sustainability issues across sectors to transform the global food system.

In 2020, Gunhild was appointed to a leading role at the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. She is the Chair of the Summit's Action Track 2: Shifting to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns, with a wide mandate to build a broad, multi-stakeholder coalition around this key challenge and opportunity, and leveraging the EAT platform to the full.

Together with former husband Petter A. Stordalen, Gunhild established the Stordalen Foundation in 2011, under which she later founded the "EAT Initiative" together with Professor Johan Rockström and the Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC). In 2016, the Wellcome Trust joined the SRC and the Stordalen Foundation as a core partner of EAT and helped grow the initiative to become a global multi-stakeholder platform for transforming the world's food system.

Gunhild sits on several boards and advises on councils including the World Economic Forum (WEF) Stewardship Board on Food Systems, REQ Capital Advisory Board, UNICEF's Advisory Group, member of Africa Europe Women Leaders Network, and the international advisory board of the SRC. In addition, Gunhild is an ambassador for Friends of Ocean action, a member of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP) for the Blue Economy, A HELENA member, and a part of the International Leadership Committee for a Net Zero NHS.

Gunhild is a published scientist and a renowned public speaker with a distinct, personal voice and a passionate commitment to food system transformation. Gunhild is a medical doctor from the University of Oslo and holds a PhD in pathology/orthopedic surgery. She is a Norwegian national.



Juan Pablo Uribe

Director of The Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) and Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population, World Bank

Colombia

Term date: since 2022 to 31 December 2024

He Dr. Uribe is a medical doctor specialized in public health and public administration who until recently, was the CEO of United Healthcare/Banmédica healthcare providers for Chile and Peru. He also served as Minister of Health and Social Protection for Colombia and as a World Bank manager for Health, Nutrition and Population in East Asia and Pacific.

Dr. Uribe has contributed significantly to the development of public health, health systems and public policies. His experience across the public and private sectors will continue to deepen engagement with key partners such as multilateral organizations, donors, CSOs and the private sector to strengthen the GFF partnership's impact in support of country plans.

In addition to the GFF, Dr. Uribe is the World Bank's Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population. Given the importance and complementary role of the GFF to the World Bank, his dual role will strengthen synergies across sectors such as education, social protection and governance as well as across the World Bank Group, including fostering collaboration with the IFC, to maximize the impact of the GFF-World Bank partnership.



Jutta Urpilainen

European Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Union
Finland

Term date: since 2020 to 31 December 2024

As European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Ms Jutta Urpilainen oversees the European Commission's work on international cooperation and sustainable development. She is a strong advocate for gender equality, social justice and youth participation.

Before joining the Commission, Ms Urpilainen served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament, representing her electoral district of Vaasa for almost 17 years, from 2003 to 2019. In 2008, she became the first woman leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland. From 2011 to 2014, she served as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. During that time (2013-14), she became closely involved in development issues, joining the Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF and chairing the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. From 2015 to 2019 she sat on Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs. She also served as the Foreign Minister's Special Representative on Mediation (2017-19) and chaired the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO (2015-18).

Commissioner Urpilainen has a master's degree in educational science from the University of Jyväskylä. As a student, she took part in the Erasmus exchange programme in Vienna, Austria. Before entering politics, she worked as a teacher in a comprehensive school. She is a longstanding champion of civil society and democracy. She has been a passionate European since her youth, and has chaired many NGOs in her home country, including the UN Association of Finland.

Commissioner Urpilainen was born in 1975. She is married and has two children.



Afshan Khan

Coordinator of the SUN Movement, UN Assistant Secretary-General

Canada

Ex Officio Member

Ms. Khan has been an international public servant for more than 30 years and has held numerous senior roles within the United Nations system and the broader international community. Most recently, she served UNICEF as the Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe. She has also led UNICEF's humanitarian work as Director of Emergency Operations and its external relations with governments as Director of Public-Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization.

Ms. Khan also has broad United Nations expertise stemming from assignments with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and the United Nations Development Group. From 2012 to 2014, she served as the CEO of the non-profit humanitarian organization Women for Women International, setting the strategic vision and mobilizing resource programmes to aid in the economic, social and political empowerment of women.

Throughout her career, Ms. Khan has had extensive field experience, including assignments in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jamaica, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa.

In her assignments, Ms. Khan's goals have always included improving nutrition. She has supported the implementation of national nutrition programmes, working alongside government and community organizations on infant and young child feeding, and advocating for the prevention of malnutrition – including through investment in social protection programmes, as well as the treatment of acute malnutrition in humanitarian emergencies and conflict settings. She has also worked with a broad range of stakeholders – including governments, civil society organizations and the private sector – to advocate for and implement evidence-based interventions to improve nutrition outcomes.

Ms. Khan was born in Hyderabad, India, and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She has a master's degree in public policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a bachelor's degree in political science from McGill University. She is based in Geneva, Switzerland.



Connell Foley

**Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning (Concern Worldwide)
and SUN Movement Executive Committee Co-Chair**

Ireland

Ex Officio Member

Mr. Connell Foley is Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning at Concern Worldwide, an international NGO focused on eliminating extreme poverty and responding to humanitarian crises.

He is responsible for programme policy and strategy, programme quality, technical support, research, learning and innovation as well as global advocacy. He has spearheaded the drive for results and evidence and led the development of an action-research portfolio of programmes, including a number of impact evaluations on nutrition. Concern's international advocacy centres on hunger (especially nutrition and community resilience), conflict, climate change and humanitarian principles and practice. He is responsible in Concern for leading the development of the Global Hunger Index each year.

He supported Concern's involvement in SUN since the inception of SUN and joined the Civil Society Network Steering Group in late 2016 where he has been active on CSN strategy, drawing particular attention to the role of civil society organisations in implementing on the ground. Connell co-chairs the SUN Movement Executive Committee since October 2021.

He has a first class honours Master Degree (research only) in Human Geography, worked in Cambodia for six years with the UN, an Irish governmental agency and an American NGO, the latter supporting local NGOs. He has provided short technical assistance visits to approximately 15 countries with Concern over the last 20 years.



Gladys Mugambi

Head Directorate of Health Promotion and Education Ministry of Health (Kenya) and SUN Movement Executive Committee Co-Chair

Kenya

Ex Officio Member

Mrs. Mugambi is the Focal Point for SUN in Kenya and since October 2021 Co-Chair of the SUN Movement's Executive Committee. She has over 20 years of experience working in the government at the district and national level including as the head of the Nutrition and Dietetics Unit at Kenya's Ministry of Health.

Prior to these positions, Mrs. Mugambi worked as a district nutritionist with the Ministry of Health at Thika District for ten years where she initiated supplementation through Early Childhood Development centers and developed a proposal for funding the national food fortification program. For five years, she spearheaded the implementation of the national food fortification project.

Mrs. Mugambi participated in research, co-authored publications, and participated in regional and global conferences. She is a registered nutritionist and holds a BS degree in Home Economics from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, and a MSc in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics from Kenyatta University and currently pursuing a PhD in Health Systems.



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