



United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

GRECO
Group of States against Corruption
Groupe d'États contre la corruption

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Building Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Institutions

Side Event at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly
against Corruption 2021

*Jointly organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the
Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO)*

Wednesday, 2 June 2021

14:00 – 15:00 PM (EDT, New York Time)

Via Zoom

Biographies of speakers



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Mr. LIU Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. LIU was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. LIU brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. LIU guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

Mr. LIU holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University. He was born in August 1955 in Shanxi Province, China. Mr. LIU is married.



Mr. Marin Mrčela is the Chairman of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). In this capacity, he has encouraged countering corruption through a multidisciplinary approach and has called upon Member States to set in place overarching integrity policies that cover all branches of government. Prior to becoming Chair of GRECO, Justice Mrčela was a longstanding member of its Bureau, where he took a decisive role in designing and pushing forward an evaluation of political financing in Europe and the United States of America.

Within Croatia, he is Vice-President of the Supreme Court and also serves as Appellate and Cassation Justice of the Supreme Court (responsible for criminal cases concerning criminal offences punishable of more than 10 years of imprisonment, including war crimes, corruption and organized crime cases). Moreover, he is Head of the Department for studying case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. He has assumed various presidencies and memberships of key professional institutions, including the Association of Judges and the Academy of Legal Sciences. He is a Humbert Humphrey Fellow at the American University in Washington DC.

Further, he holds a PhD in Law and gives lectures on corruption and security topics at numerous universities and institutions around the world. He is Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, Faculty of Law of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek.



Ms. Adriana Alberti is Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). She has thirty years of international knowledge and expertise in governance and public administration. She coordinated and contributed to a number of UN publications, including the UN E-Government Survey. She has led capacity development activities in over 25 countries from around the world, including on innovation in governance and digital government. She coordinated the UN Public Service Forum and Awards programme. As Chief Technical Advisor, she managed an innovation programme in the Middle East, North Africa, and Western Balkans.

Prior to joining the UN, she worked at the University of Bologna and taught at several universities. She was Visiting Fellow at Princeton University, the Institute of Advanced Social Studies in Spain, and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. She was awarded fellowships from the Italian National Research Council, the European University Institute, the Government of Spain for the Salvador de Madariaga Research Grant, and Harvard University.

She holds a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute, a master's degree in Political Science magna cum laude from the University of Bologna and an Executive Education certificate from Harvard University.



Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat currently presides the “Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan” at the Lebanese ministry of Finance. She teaches public governance (since 2015) at the Institute of political studies at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut and Governance and Gender at the American University of Beirut.

She also advises on Agenda 2030 progress at global level as a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA is a subsidiary body of the UN ECOSOC) upon appointment by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Her 20 years multidisciplinary experience in Lebanon and the MENA region is focused on sustainable development and quality of government with particular emphasis on public sector reform, budget transparency and public procurement. She authored and contributed to more than 40 publications including academic articles, public policies, books and guides, and founded the semi-peer reviewed journal “Assadissa”-Journal of Public Finance and State Building.

Ms. Moubayed holds an M.Sc. degree from the American University of Beirut and Professional Certificates in Strategic Policy Planning and in Strategic Management and Leadership from the UK. She previously worked in private consulting and with UN agencies namely UNDP, ESCWA, UNRCO.

Ms. Moubayed is a fervent supporter of women's talents. She is a strong believer in the changing force of a financially literate youth.



Ms. Anni Haataja joined UN DESA in 2009 and is currently a Governance and Public Administration Officer in the Program Management and Capacity Development Unit of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG). She worked on the Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions, part of UN DESA's Curriculum on Governance for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. She has co-authored a chapter for the United Nations E-Government Survey, was the Principal Coordinator of the Guidelines on Citizen Engagement, has co-authored the Compendium of Innovative Practices in Public Governance and Administration for Sustainable Development and a paper on Partnerships for Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. She is also leading the DPIDG team on communications and outreach. She has led several workshops and Expert Group Meetings around the world.

Prior to joining UN DESA, she worked at children's rights organization Plan International. She has also experience from the European Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN.

She holds a Master's Degree in Global Political Economy (with Distinction) and a Bachelor's Degree (with Honours) in International Relations from the Sussex University, UK, and an Executive Degree on Innovation for Economic Development from the Harvard University.



Ms. Hanne Juncher, is the Executive Secretary of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) and Head of the Action against Crime Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe. She previously headed the Council of Europe's work on justice and legal co-operation and as such was responsible for the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Consultative Councils of European Judges and Prosecutors (CCJE and CCPE), developing new standards in the areas of private and public law, and the Council of Europe's justice reform programmes.

Prior to that, she worked for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), in the field in the Western Balkans, and headed the Council of Europe's human rights support and awareness-raising work.

She has postgraduate degrees in law from Copenhagen and Essex Universities



Ms. Aránzazu Guillán Montero is Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer in the Institutions for Sustainable Development Goals Branch (ISDGB), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), of UN DESA. Before joining UN DESA, she was a Senior Program Advisor at U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center in Norway. In this capacity, she assisted bilateral development agencies to address corruption, with a particular focus on mainstreaming anti-corruption into sectors and strengthening people's engagement for anti-corruption.

She previously worked for the World Bank overseeing the implementation of public sector management reform and institutional strengthening projects, and the design, delivery and evaluation of capacity building initiatives on transparency and accountability in Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia and South-East Europe.

Aránzazu holds a PhD in Government and a Master in Public Policy from Georgetown University (Washington D.C., USA).



Mr. Md Mustafizur Rahman serves as the Secretary of the Ministry of Land, Bangladesh. He was born in 1964 in Khulna district of Bangladesh. He completed his masters in physics from Rajshahi University. In 1991, he joined Bangladesh civil service as an Assistant Commissioner and magistrate.

He served as a programmer for 3 years in Bangladesh computer council. He has a wide range of working experience within different capacity of the government. In 2011, he was posted as a Deputy Commissioner of Jashore district. Under his leadership, Jessore district was declared as a first digital district by the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

He got the e-Asia award 2011, best DC award in 2012 (for the contribution in implementing e-services in the field administration level), best DC award in 2013 (for the contribution in Primary Education), best DC award 2013 (for the contribution in one house one firm project). He also got the 'Public Administration Award 2016' as a recognition of his outstanding contributions as a public servant. Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman has been bestowed with National Integrity Award for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Recently, he has been awarded Digital Bangladesh Award-2020 for his relentless contribution in the country's ICT sector.



Ms. Laura Valli is Senior Advisor and Board member of the Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), Italy. After graduating in law at the University of Bologna, Laura served as a civil judge and a prosecutor in Italy for 10 years.

She then moved to Washington DC where she worked for 16 years at the World Bank Group as a senior investigator and ethics officer.

She has been an adviser to the Italian Anticorruption Authority since 2018. Laura is currently serving as a Board member of the Italian Anticorruption Authority.

She is an Italian and New Zealand national.