



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



Ministry of  
the Interior and Safety  
Republic of Korea

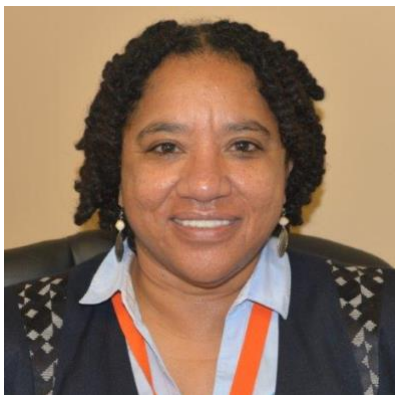
# United Nations Public Service Day 2020

**ON THE FRONTLINES:** Honouring public servants  
in the COVID-19 pandemic response |23 June 2020

## Biographies [in order of appearance]

### Moderator

**Ms. Odette Ramsingh**, Executive Director: Human Resources at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, South Africa



Ms. Odette Ramsingh is the Executive Director: Human Resources at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University in South Africa. Prior, she served as Director General of the South African Public Service Commission, overseeing the performance of the South African Public Service. She has authored a number of papers and has had the privilege of presenting her research both locally and internationally. She is an attorney of the Supreme Court of South Africa. Ms. Ramsingh was the first head of the Interim Secretariat of the Association of African Public Services Commissions and served as Chair of the Department of Economic and Social

Affairs-sponsored working group on the Africa Public Sector Human Resources Management Network and was elected a Deputy President of the Network. She was also a Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) at the United Nations, serving two terms. In 2009, she made a successful transition to the corporate sector when she joined Metropolitan Health as Group Human Resources executive, and later was the Executive for Stakeholder Relations and Head: Public Service Initiatives of the parent company, MMI Holdings. She has recently joined the academic sector.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Law and Master of Business Administration and was awarded the prestigious Nelson Mandela Scholarship, through which she obtained her Master of Arts degree in governance and development.

## Opening and Keynote Speakers

### **His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, 74<sup>th</sup> President of the United Nations General Assembly**



His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande serves as President to the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. Prior to this role he served as Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2018-2019) and as Vice-President of the 71st session of the General Assembly (2017). He has been active in several forums, including as Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34), Member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Group.

Prior to his functions with the UN, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande had an academic career at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Nigeria, rising from Graduate Assistant in 1980 to full Professor in 1998, and ultimately to Vice-Chancellor, in 2004, a position he held for five years. Between 2000 and 2004, Professor Muhammad-Bande served as Director-General of Le Centre Africain de Formation et de Recherche Administratives pour le Développement (CAFRAD), in Tangiers, Morocco. Under his stewardship, the Centre improved much-needed training for senior African public servants, conducted specialized research on African governance issues, and worked with a variety of partners, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

### **Her Excellency Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**



Her Excellency Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde was appointed as President of Ethiopia in 2018, the first woman to serve in the role. The President has over three decades of experience from the national, regional and international levels. In June 2018, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Ms. Zewde as his Special Representative to the African Union (AU) and Head of the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU) at the level of Under-Secretary-General. Zewde, who was the Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) during her appointment by Guterres, was the first woman appointed to the position. Ms. Zewde also served as the Special Representative and Head of the UN Integrated Peace-building Office in the Central

African Republic (BINUCA) as well as permanent envoy of Ethiopia to the AU and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

At the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs she acted as Director-General for African Affairs under the ministry, and as Ethiopia's Ambassador to France, Permanent Representative to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She also served as Ethiopia's Ambassador to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to IGAD from 1993 to 2002, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Senegal, with accreditation to Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Guinea from 1989-1993. Born in the capital Addis Ababa, Zewde she is fluent in English and French as well as Amharic, Ethiopia's official working language.

### **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization**



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as WHO Director-General in 2017. He is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve in the role. Prior to this, Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012–2016. In this role he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health from 2005–2012, where he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system.

Born in the city of Asmara, Eritrea, Dr Tedros holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and a Master of Science (MSc) in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London. Dr Tedros is globally recognised as a health scholar, researcher, and diplomat with first-hand experience in research, operations, and leadership in emergency responses to epidemics.

## **His Excellency Mr. Chin Young, Minister of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea**



His Excellency Mr. Chin Young is the Minister of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), Republic of Korea. He formerly served as the Minister of Health and Welfare in 2013. Before joining the Korean government, he was a member of the National Assembly, serving in a number of Committees including the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and the Security and Public Administration Committee. Beforehand, he worked as a judge at the Seoul Southern District Court. He was granted Korea Exemplary Parliamentarian Awards in 2015, and Korea Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards in 2014. He holds an LL.M. from University of Washington, U.S. and an LL.B. from Seoul National University, Korea.

## **Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**



Mr. Zhenmin has served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs since 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. 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 has over 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.

## Panelists

**Dr. In-jae Lee**, Assistant Minister for Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea



Dr. In-jae Lee is the Assistant Minister for Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), Republic of Korea. He has served in various leadership positions in the Korean government. Prior to his current position, he served as the Executive Director at the Office of Presidential Committee on Autonomy and Decentralization. He previously held several Director-General level positions at MOIS in the fields of e-Government, Local Administration Policy and Regional Development Policy, to name a few. He holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, United States.

**Ms. K. K. Shailaja Teacher**, Minister for Health, Social Justice, Women and Child Development, Kerala State, India



Ms. K.K. Shailaja Teacher is Minister for Health, Social Justice, Women and Child Development for Kerala State. She entered politics through Students Federation of India (SFI) activities and later become a member of CPI (M) Central Committee. She is the State Secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association and Joint Secretary of its Central Committee. She has authored two books- "Indian Varthamanavum Sthreesamoochavum" and "China-Rashtram, Rashtreeyam, Kazhchakal". She has also served as Chief Editor of "Sthree Sabdam", a monthly publication and the official organ of the Kerala State Unit of AIDWA (All India Democratic Women's Association). She was previously elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly from Kuthuparamba in 1996 and from Peravoor in 2006. Prior to her life in politics she worked in Sivapuram High School in Kannur as Science Teacher.

## **Ms. Annette Kennedy, President of the International Council of Nurses**



Annette Kennedy was elected 28th President of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in June 2017 after serving four years as Vice President. Annette was a Commissioner on the WHO Independent High –Level Commission on NCD’s (2017- 2019).

Annette is a board member of the Nursing Now Campaign Board. Annette is also a Ministerial appointment to Slaintecare Advisory Implementation Committee, 2018-2021 (Irish Health & Social Care 10-year Strategy). Previously, she held the position of President of the European Federation of Nurses and was active in lobbying the European Parliament, Commission and Council.

A Registered Nurse and Midwife with a BA in Nursing Studies, an MSc in Public Sector Analysis and a Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). Annette was the Director of Professional Development for the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation for 19 years and established the INMO’s very successful Education, Research and Resource Centre.

## **Mr. Jim Campbell, Director of the Health Workforce department at the World Health Organization.**



Jim Campbell is the director of the Health Workforce department at the World Health Organization. He oversees the development and implementation of global public goods, evidence and tools to inform national and international investments in the education, development and retention of the health and social sector workforce in pursuit of global health security, universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The department’s work includes the State of the World’s Nursing Report, WHO’s Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce

2030, the report of the High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth and the subsequent adoption of the ILO, OECD, WHO action plan on *Working for Health* to implement the Commission’s recommendations. He coordinates the Global Health Workforce Network engaging member states and relevant partners in WHO’s work.

Prior to joining WHO and GHWA he spent eight years as the founder/Director of a not-for-profit research institute. His publications include *A Universal Truth: No Health Without a Workforce* (2013), and the *State of the World’s Midwifery* reports (2011 and 2014). He is a Board member of the International Institute for Educational Planning.

## **Ms. Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of Public Services International**



Rosa Pavanelli is General Secretary of the global union federation Public Services International. She was elected at PSI's World Congress in November 2012 and was re-elected for a second mandate in November 2017.

In March 2016, Rosa was nominated as Commissioner on the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth representing the trade union movement, health workers and public services. Rosa is also a member of the United Nations High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters and of the Cornell University International Labour Relations Worker Institute Advisory Council. She also collaborates closely with the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

In 2002, she was elected to the Funzione Pubblica – Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro National Secretariat and led the European and International Department from 2005 to 2012. Prior to that, she was responsible for the municipal and healthcare sector and was FP-CGIL General Secretary of the Lombardy region.