



Driving just transitions for SDG Acceleration

Convened by the UN SG
24 Sept. 2024 13:30-15:15
ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQ



H.E. Ms. Mia Mottley

Prime Minister of Barbados

Ms. Mia Mottley has served as the eighth Prime Minister of Barbados since 2018 and as Leader of the Barbados Labour Party. From 2008 to 2010 and 2013 to 2018, she was the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly of Barbados. Previously, she held a succession of ministerial portfolios including that of Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and Attorney-General of Barbados. Ms. Mottley has been the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Saint Michael North East since 1994.



H.E. Mr. Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada, Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates

Mr. Justin Trudeau, the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada, took office on November 2015. He previously held the position of Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Youth from 2015 to 2018. Prior to his election, he served as the leader of the Liberal Party in Canada starting in 2013. In 2008, Mr. Trudeau was elected as a member of Parliament for Papineau in the House of Commons.



H.E. Mr. Garry Conille

Prime Minister of Haiti

Mr. Garry Conille is the current acting Prime Minister of Haiti since June 2024. He was also Prime Minister from 2011 to 2012. Before entering the political arena, he worked within the UN system for several years, focusing on humanitarian aid and sustainable development projects. He holds a medical degree and has been involved in efforts to improve healthcare access in Haiti.



H.E. Mr. Wellington Dias

Minister for Development and Social Assistance of Brazil

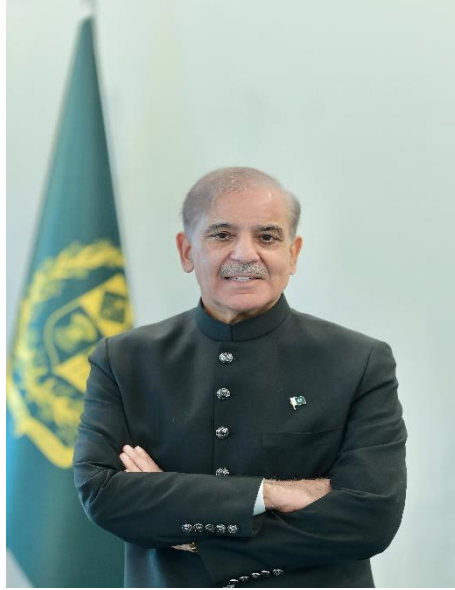
Wellington Dias, a member of Brazil's Workers' Party, has been the Minister for Development and Social Assistance of Brazil since January 2023. He previously served as Governor of Piauí from 2002 to 2010 and 2015 to 2022, focusing on poverty reduction and infrastructure development. Dias was also a senator for Piauí from 2011 to 2015 and returned to the Senate in 2023. Known for his dedication to social justice, he continues to advocate for social welfare programs aimed at supporting Brazil's vulnerable populations.



H.E. Mr. Bernardo Arévalo

President of the Republic of Guatemala

Mr. Bernardo Arévalo has been the current President of Guatemala since January 2024. He is a member and co-founder of the Semilla party. Mr. Arévalo served as a Deputy in the Congress of Guatemala from 2020 to 2024, and Secretary General of Movimiento Semilla (2022-25). Until December 2019, he served as Senior Advisor for Peacebuilding at the Interpeace International Advisory Team. Between 2005 and 2011, he was director of the United Nations/Interpeace Joint Program Unit with UNOPS, and served in the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 12 years, including as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador to Spain.



H.E. Mr. Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister of Pakistan

Mr. Shehbaz Sharif is a prominent Pakistani politician and businessman, currently serving as the 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan, a position he has held since March 2024.

He is also the President of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N). Throughout his political career, Mr. Sharif has held significant leadership roles, including Leader of the

Opposition in the National Assembly and serving three terms as Chief Minister of Punjab. His political career began after his tenure as President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry in 1985.



H.E. Ms. Mette Frederiksen

Prime Minister of Denmark

Ms. Mette Frederiksen has been the Prime Minister of Denmark since June 2019. She is the leader of the Social Democrats, a position she has held since June 2015. Ms. Frederiksen has also served as the Minister of Justice from 2014 to 2015 and Minister of Employment from 2011 to 2014. She was first elected to the Danish Parliament in the 2001 election.



H.E. Ms. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa

Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

Ms. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa is the seventh Prime Minister of Samoa since 24 May 2021. She is the first woman to serve as Samoa's Head of Government. Ms. Mata'afa has been the leader of the Fa'atuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi (FAST) party since 2021. Prior to her role as Prime Minister, Ms. Mata'afa was the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa from 2016 to 2020. She has also served in Samoan Parliament for the constituency of Lotofaga. Ms. Mata'afa has also represented Samoa on the executive board of UNESCO and is currently president of the Samoa National Council of Women.



H.E. Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Faye

President of Senegal

Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Faye is the fifth and current President of Senegal since 2024. He is the former General Secretary of the PASTEF political party from 2014 to 2024. He has also worked as a tax inspector in the Tax and Estates department and is known for his commitment to fiscal reforms and transparency in governance.



Mr. Antonio Guterres

UN Secretary-General

António Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002. Mr. Guterres was elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1976 where he served as a member for 17 years.



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

UN Deputy Secretary-General

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Previously she served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. She joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang

President of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Philemon Yang was elected in June 2024 to serve as the President of the United Nations General Assembly for its 79th session, starting in September 2024. Mr. Yang is the longest-serving Prime Minister in Cameroonian history having held the position from 2009 to 2019. Before serving as Prime Minister of Cameroon, Mr. Yang was the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cameroon Airlines Corporation from 2008 to 2009 and Assistant Secretary-General of the Presidency of Cameroon from 2004 to 2008. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Canada and High Commissioner in Canada.



Ms. Rebeca Grynszpan

Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Ms. Rebeca Grynszpan has served as the Secretary-General of the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) since 13 September 2021. Prior to this role, Ms. Grynszpan was the Ibero-American Secretary General from 2014 to 2021 and the Associate Administrator of UNDP from 2010 to 2014. She was Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in December 2005. Ms. Grynszpan was also the Vice President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998.



Mr. Achim Steiner

UNDP Administrator

Achim Steiner has been the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme since 19 June 2017. Mr. Steiner is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group. Prior to joining UNDP, he was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. He led the United Nations Environment Programme from 2006 to 2016. Previously, Mr. Steiner was the Director-General of the UN Office in Nairobi, Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams.



Mr. John McArthur

Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development

John W. McArthur is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. He co-founded and co-chairs the 17 Rooms Initiative, a new approach to catalyzing action for the Sustainable Development Goals. Outside of Brookings, he is a senior adviser to the United Nations Foundation, a member of Policy Horizons Canada's Deputy Minister Steering Committee, and a member of Novata's Sustainability Advisory Board. Prior to that he served as the Manager and then Deputy Director of the U.N. Millennium Project, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's independent advisory body mandated to recommend an action plan for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



Ms. Tariye Gbadegesin

CEO of the Climate Investment Funds

Ms. Tariye Gbadegesin has been the CEO of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) since March 2024. CIF, one of the world's largest multilateral funds, has received over US\$12 billion in pledges from 15 countries, unlocking more than \$64 billion for climate action across 80+ nations. Previously, she was CEO of ARM-Harith Infrastructure Investments, a Pan-African infrastructure fund, and Co-Chair of the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI). Tariye has also worked with the IMF, Boston Consulting Group, and PwC, and has held roles in various climate and economic organizations, including GFANZ and the UN PRI.



Ms. Nomonde Ngema

HIV Activist

Ms. Nomonde Ngema is a 21-year-old HIV activist from South Africa, who empowers young women and girls living with HIV by sharing her personal journey. She is the author of *Heart to Heart*, a poignant collection of poems and letters from diverse voices online, which aims to breakdown social stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV. Through TikTok, podcasts, and her role as the HER Voice Fund Ambassador for South Africa, she promotes adherence to antiretroviral treatment, to keep people living with HIV in good health, and advocates for the needs of adolescent girls and of young women living with HIV.



Ms. Christina Williams

Executive Member, SDG4 Youth and Student Network

Ms. Williams serves as an executive member of the UNESCO SDG4 Youth and Student Network and the Commonwealth Students Association. She is a young leader from rural Jamaica who has worked specifically on issues like transforming education in her country. She has lobbied for and contributed to legislations and development programs such as legislation to regulate education institutions and accelerate equitable education financing, country-wide health insurance for low-income students and the integration of climate education, peace building and gender equality in public school curriculum.



Ms. Lilly Singh

Award-winning Entertainer, UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocate

Lilly Singh is an award-winning entertainer, producer, writer and gender equality advocate who understands the power of storytelling to change culture. Lilly has pushed the limits of possibility throughout her career and continues to break boundaries in storytelling through her Unicorn Island Productions banner and her nonprofit, Unicorn Island Fund, where she spotlights underrepresented voices and challenges social norms to transform the way the world sees, values and invests in girls and women.

Lilly has been recognized by TIME, Forbes and Fast Company for her impact in entertainment and received The DVF Leadership Award in 2023. She was named a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for her work to expand opportunities for young girls.



Ms. Femi Oke

Independent Journalist and Co-Founder of Moderate The Panel

Femi Oke is a British-Nigerian journalist, an international broadcaster, professional facilitator and Co-Founder of Moderate The Panel, an organization working to make panel events less painful. Oke anchors the global affairs discussion show *The Stream* on Al Jazeera, is a correspondent for the network's documentary series *Fault Lines* and is the social media correspondent for NPR's news program *Here and Now*.



DJ Cuppy

DJ, Music Producer, and Philanthropist

DJ Cuppy is a Nigerian DJ, music producer, and philanthropist with over 17 million followers on Instagram, X, and TikTok. She began her DJ career in 2013, blending Afrobeats with global sounds, and has performed at prestigious events like the MTV Africa Music Awards and Financial Times Luxury Summit. Cuppy holds degrees from King's College London, NYU, and Oxford University. Beyond music, she advocates for education and youth empowerment through the Cuppy Foundation, supporting children in Africa, the UK, and the USA with scholarships. She has worked with organizations like Save the Children, Kings Trust, and Global Citizen.