

## **Short biography of the speakers, co-chairs and discussants of the Plenary 1: National and Local DRR Strategies**

### **Chairs**

**H.E. Kiren Rijuju**, State Minister, INDIA

**H.E. Joaquin Roa**, Minister, Ministry of National Emergency Secretariat, PARAGUAY

**Ms. Denisse Ugalde Alegría**, Mayor of Tlalnepantla, Mexico

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### **Speakers**

**Mr. Christos Stylianides**, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

**Mr. Melchior Mataki**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Solomon Islands

**Ms. Kathy Oldham**, Head of Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit, Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), Greater Manchester

### **Discussants**

**Ms. Maryam Golnaraghi**, Director Extreme Events and Climate Risks Programme, The Geneva Insurance Association

**Ms. Farah Kabir**, Chair of Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) Global Board, Country Director ActionAid Bangladesh

## Professional profile



**Name:** H.E. Kiren Rijju

**Title and organization represented:** Minister of Stat for Home Affairs

**Short bio:** Mr. Kiren Rijju is the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India since 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

Considered as the Voice of the North East India, Mr. Rijju was elected as Member of Parliament from West Arunachal Pradesh Constituency from 2004 to 2009. During this period, he was adjudged the “Best Young Parliamentarian” by the media. He was again elected as Member of Parliament from the same constituency in 2014 and inducted in the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Rijju has participated in a number of Conferences on terrorism, cross-border terrorism, insurgency, Migration, Piracy etc. In the field of Disaster Management, he has participated in 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), 2014 in Bangkok, 2<sup>nd</sup> World Reconstruction Conference, 2014 held in Washington and 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Science & Technology Minister Conference, 2016 in Bangkok. He was Leader of the organizing team of AMCDRR Conference held in New Delhi in 2016. Recognizing his work in the area of Disaster Management, United Nations has designated him as the “Disaster Risk Champion for Asia Region” in the year 2015.

Mr. Rijju holds Law Degree from Delhi University. He is the Vice-President of National Archery Association of India. He is an avid traveller and has visited 150 countries.

## Professional profile



**Name:** H. E. Joaquín Daniel Roa

**Title and organization represented:** National Emergency Secretariat of the Republic of Paraguay

**Short bio:** H.E. Joaquín Roa is Minister of the National Emergency Secretariat under the Presidency of the Republic of Paraguay, during his administration of government some of the following achievements stand out:

He endorsed the approval about the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 by Presidential Decree for Paraguay and established its transversality to other government institutions, and Paraguay becomes the first country in the world to adopt the Framework for Sendai. He endorsed Paraguay to become host in 2016 of the First Ministerial Meeting and Post-Sendai High Level Authorities in the Americas, which unanimously approved the “Declaration of Asunción” including the main guidelines of the “First Regional Action Plan for the continent”. He represents Paraguay before the Intergovernmental Working Group of Open-ended Experts on United Nations Disaster-Related Indicators and Terminology.

As Pro-Tempore President of the Mercosur in the regional theme of GRD during the period 2015 his management achieves the structural change in the regional space with a strategic transformation of elevating a Specialized Meeting to a Ministerial Meeting, with a higher decision level and in the 49th Summit of Heads of State of Mercosur and Member States, the Ministerial Meeting on Comprehensive Risk Management (RMAGIR) was approved, and also led the process of construction and approval of the First Mercosur Glossary.

For the first time in Paraguay 's history, humanitarian aid supplies were delivered to Manabí, Ecuador (2016), Lima, Peru (2017), and Chubut, Argentina (2017).

Likewise, from UNDP Paraguay he led the design, construction and consensus of the First National Risk Management Policy, and as Minister, he promoted the approval of the First National Risk Management Policy by Presidential Decree.

He also served as an expert on humanitarian affairs at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Paraguay.



**Name:** Mayor Aurora Denisse Ugalde Alegría

**Organization represented:** Mayor of Tlalnepantla, Mexico

**Short bio:**

Ms. Aurora Denisse Ugalde Alegría is a Mexican politician and the mayor of Tlalnepantla, Mexico. As of 2013 she served as Deputy of the LXII Legislature of the Mexican Congress representing the State of Mexico. Prior to her post as mayor she was Deputy of the Congress of the Union of Mexico. Ms. Ugalde Alegría holds degrees in psychology including a masters degree in Gestalt Psychology from Gestalt University of America, Mexico.



**Name:** Christos Stylianides

**Title and organization represented:** EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

**Short bio:**

Christos Stylianides is the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management since November 1st, 2014. On October 24th, 2014 he was appointed by the European Council EU Ebola Coordinator.

He was elected Member of the European Parliament in the May 2014 European elections where he served until October 31st 2014. He was twice appointed Government Spokesperson of the Republic of Cyprus (in 2013-2014 and in 1998-1999). He was responsible for the management of the Government's communication strategy and was the head of the Government's centralised Press and Information Office.

During the period 2006-2013 he served as a Member of the Cyprus House of Representatives (elected in 2006 and 2011). During his tenure he served as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (2011-2013) and member of the Committee on European Affairs, the Committee of Internal Affairs and the Committee of Employment and Social Affairs (2006-2011). Between 2006-2011 he was a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and he was elected Member of its Bureau in 2012.



**Name:** Melchior Mataka

**Title and organization represented:** Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Solomon Islands

**Short bio:**

Melchior Mataka is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology since 2013. He is the Chairman of the Solomon Islands National Disaster Council, Fisheries Advisory Committee and a Co-Chair of the National Taskforce on Oceans.

Melchior Mataka is an environmental scientist with specialization on waste management, climate change and disaster risk management in the Pacific Islands. Mataka has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and mathematics, and a masters degree in analytical chemistry from the University of the South Pacific (USP). After teaching at USP Campus in Honiara and USP Chemistry Department, he joined as the Programme Manager and Fellow at the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development at USP, where he was involved in applied and policy research work on waste management, climate change and natural resource management. Mataka also worked with the German International Development Cooperation as the Programme Implementation Manager of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme. He holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Murdoch University (Australia).



**Name:** Kathryn Oldham

**Title and organization represented:** Head of Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit, Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), Greater Manchester

**Short bio:**

Kathryn is Head of Civil Contingencies & Resilience for Greater Manchester's 10 local authorities. In 2011 she led the transformation of the way in which disaster risk reduction is delivered across Greater Manchester through the design and creation of a shared service for Greater Manchester's 10 local authorities. Kathryn has responsibility for leading this specialist unit, providing expert civil contingencies services to local government including in the areas of health protection, disaster risk reduction, emergency management and recovery. The unit offers a year round emergency response service, ensuring Greater Manchester's local authorities always have access to disaster management expertise.

Kathryn led Greater Manchester's participation in the United Nation's (UNISDR) Making Cities Resilient Campaign in which the UN has recognized the city region as one of only 45 role model cities worldwide. She also led Greater Manchester's successful bid to join the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities network. Kathryn is an expert advisor on emergency planning for the Local Government Association and is a member of SOLACE's civil contingencies and community safety group.

Kathryn has varied and extensive experience in the public sector. Previously she has managed a wide range of local government services including being Assistant Director with responsibilities for Manchester's historic civic buildings, heading up facilities management services for the Town Hall complex, leading finance and service improvement teams for Manchester City Council and managing diverse services across Manchester's public housing stock.

Kathryn holds a medical degree, qualifying with the University of Manchester, and has received national awards for business continuity planning together with her role in planning for the Olympic Games in 2012.



**Name:** Maryam Golnaraghi

**Title and organization represented:** Director of Extreme Events and Climate Risks, The Geneva Association

**Short bio:**

Dr. Golnaraghi is the Director of Extreme Events and Climate Risks at The Geneva Association, the leading international think tank on insurance, economics and risk management, whose members are 90 CEOs of the world's insurance and reinsurance companies. With over 20 years in international executive and senior advisory positions in industry, government and the United Nations, Maryam is working at the forefront of developing proactive strategies, policies and innovative solutions related to: (i) economic resilience to disaster and climate risks; and, (ii) sound pathways for transitioning to low carbon economy with focus on technological innovations and investment strategies. Her current projects include:

From 2014 to 2015, Maryam served as a senior advisor to Environment Canada as well as a number of international development organizations. From 2004 to 2014, she was the Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Program at the World Meteorological Organization (UN). In this capacity, From 1997 to 2004, she was the CEO and President of Climate Risk Solutions, Inc., a research and advisory firm, headquartered in Boston, MA (USA) working with the US government and companies in energy, agriculture and insurance sectors in North America and Europe.

Dr. Golnaraghi serves in a number of international, national, industry and academic advisory boards. She has authored numerous internationally referenced reports as well as a book on Institutional Partnerships in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (Springer-Verlag 2012). She holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University, an MS in Applied Physics and a PhD in Physical Oceanography from Harvard University, after which she held a two-year senior research position at the Harvard Business School.





**Name:** Farah Kabir

**Organization represented:** Chair of GNDR Global Board, Country Director ActionAid Bangladesh

**Short bio:**

Farah Kabir has been working in the field of development and research for close to 2 decades. She has research experience and a host of publications especially on Women in Politics to her credit. At present, she is working as the Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh since June 2007. She won the "Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012" for her significant contribution in women's empowerment in Bangladesh.

She worked with British Council for close to ten years both in Bangladesh and UK. She has been an activist on women's rights, gender equity, climate justice and child rights for a long time.

She is an active member of many professional societies. She is working as the Chair of the Global Board of GNDR. Farah is a member of UCEP General Assembly; Napier University, Edinburgh Scotland; Board of Trustees for Zero Tolerance, Scotland; Climate Action Network, South Asia; Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Education Watch and Funding Committee of Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF).

As a newscaster on both National Television and Radio for a long time, Farah built an association with the media.

Farah is married with two sons. She is fond of music and reading. In her teens she was involved with amateur theatr.

