

**Side Event to the
24th Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group
on the Right to Development**

**Good Practices in Operationalising the Right to Development in
South-South Cooperation**

Organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
and the University for Peace (UPEACE)

18 May 2023

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

Mr. Pratyush Sharma, Lead Researcher, UPEACE-OHCHR study on *Good Practices in Operationalising the Right to Development in South-South Cooperation*

Pratyush Sharma is the lead researcher for the UPEACE-OHCHR study on *Good Practices in Operationalising the Right to Development in South-South Cooperation* with the guidance of **Dr. Mihir Kanade** (Head of the Department of International Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at UPEACE; and Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development). Mr. Sharma is a doctoral candidate at UPEACE on the theme of '*Theorizing South-South Cooperation through the Normative Lens of Right to Development: A case study of India's South-South Cooperation*' also under the supervision of Dr. Mihir Kanade. He is currently an Assistant Professor in Global Studies at Amrita University, Kerala, India; and Consultant for C20 (Civil Engagement Group for G20). Mr. Sharma has also been a Queen Elizabeth Scholar for International Development at the University of Calgary and a Global Governance Fellow at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability in Bonn.



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DISCUSSANTS

H.E. Ms. Priyanka Chauhan, Ambassador & Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to the United Nations Office in Geneva



Ambassador Priyanka Chauhan is an Indian career diplomat who joined the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva as the Deputy Permanent Representative in July 2022. She has served as Consul General of India to Hong Kong and Macau SARs, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in London, and Head of Chancery in the Embassy of India in Madrid. She has also served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, including as Head of the Finance Division and in Divisions handling India's bilateral relations with the United States, Canada, Nepal and Bhutan. H.E. Ms. Chauhan holds a graduate degree in architecture from CEPT Ahmedabad and a post-graduate degree in defence and strategic studies from DSSC Wellington (India's premier tri-service military institution). Before joining the Indian Foreign

Service, she briefly wrote for India's leading national daily, The Times of India.

Mr Zachary A. R. Phillips, Crown Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers in Antigua and Barbuda

Mr. Zachary A. R. Phillips is a young Attorney-at-Law, academic, published writer, and educator. He is employed at the Attorney General's Chambers as a Crown Counsel in Antigua and Barbuda. With his LL.M. in Public International Law, Zachary is integral to the International Law Unit at the Attorney General's Chambers. He is involved in negotiations on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda. Most recently, he was an Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Fellow in 2022 and spent a year working on advancing the interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the areas of climate, ocean governance and sustainable development. During this tenure, he was assigned to follow Loss and Damage and Sea Level Rise on behalf of the group and has contributed to the work done by AOSIS in these areas.



Dr. George Johannes Chirima – Research Team Manager, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa.

Dr. George Chirima is the Manager for India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) projects at the Agricultural Research Council, South Africa. His research interests are in Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Applied Statistics, GIS and Remote sensing applications to agriculture and natural resources, with a particular focus on regime shifts driven by climate change. Although commonly acknowledged in marine systems, terrestrial and agricultural ecosystems are also changing into new states dominated by different conditions than used to dominate these systems. The new conditions may disparately affect the abundance of some species, crops and animal production, particularly for those varieties and species that occur in marginal areas with respect to their normal growth conditions. An improved understanding of the mechanisms driving these types of changes is, therefore, a central theme of his research. Dr. Chirima's research team focuses on understanding the non-linear processes and drivers of these regime



changes through modelling tools. Dr. George Chirima holds a Ph.D. from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, an MSc. from the University of Indiana (USA), an MSc. from the University of Zimbabwe, an MS. ED (University of Havana), and a BSc. Hons (University of Zimbabwe).

Mr. Saand Youssouf Ahmed Abdallah, Energy and Environment Expert, UNDP-Comoros

Mr. Saand Ahmed is an energy and environmental engineer alumnus of the AOSIS climate negotiators fellowship. He is currently working as an energy expert at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Comoros. He manages the UNDP Comoros energy portfolio, supporting the government of the Comoros Islands in achieving its energy transition objectives and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Previously, he was the project manager for the South South Cooperation project funded by IBSA in Comoros Moheli, which was implemented by UNDP and the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa



Mr. Benhur Peruch Viana, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva.



Mr. Benhur Peruch Viana is the Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva, having served before at the embassies of Brazil in Beijing, China, Stockholm, Sweden and Minsk, Belarus. Mr. Viana holds a Bachelor's degree in law and a Master's degree in diplomacy. Previously he worked for the International Agreements Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. From 2019 to 2021, he headed the office for the Ocean, Antarctic, and Outer Space Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil.

**Mr. Edson Correia De Rocha Monteiro – WASH Project Officer – WASH Section,
UNICEF, Angola Country Office**

Mr. Edson Monteiro is a WASH specialist at the Angola Country Office, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). He has over 15 years of experience in development and emergencies and extensive knowledge of WASH innovations, practices, and approaches to appropriate technologies in development and humanitarian settings. Mr. Monteiro is committed and result-oriented, with demonstrated abilities in planning and managing projects and building effective working relationships with colleagues, governmental authorities, and other stakeholders. He is a graduate in IWRM Professional Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).



**Ms Yuefen Li, Senior Advisor on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance,
The South Centre, Geneva**



Ms. Yuefen Li is a Senior Advisor at the South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland. She was formerly the United Nations Independent Expert on Debt and Human Rights. Ms. Li worked at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for more than 20 years and held several senior positions, including Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch. Before joining the United Nations, she was a lecturer at the University of International Business & Economics in Beijing and a guest professor at two universities in China. Ms. Li has published books and papers on issues relating to debt, development strategies, South-South cooperation, finance, human rights, trade, etc.
