

# AMBASSADORS SERIES

Special Issue 3 | September 2014



**PEACE ISLANDS**  
INSTITUTE



**JOURNALISTS  
AND WRITERS  
FOUNDATION**

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Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN



# Ambassadors Series



## Mission and Vision

The ultimate goal is to present explanations and solutions and support successful practices to achieve world peace around shared values.

### Peace Islands Institute

Peace Islands Institute (PII) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of unity, education, welfare, and progress worldwide. PII aims to develop original and alternative perspectives on the global and social phenomena, present explanations and solutions, and support successful practices in order to achieve world peace by creating the realms of peaceful coexistence, or “peace islands”.

### Journalists and Writers Foundation

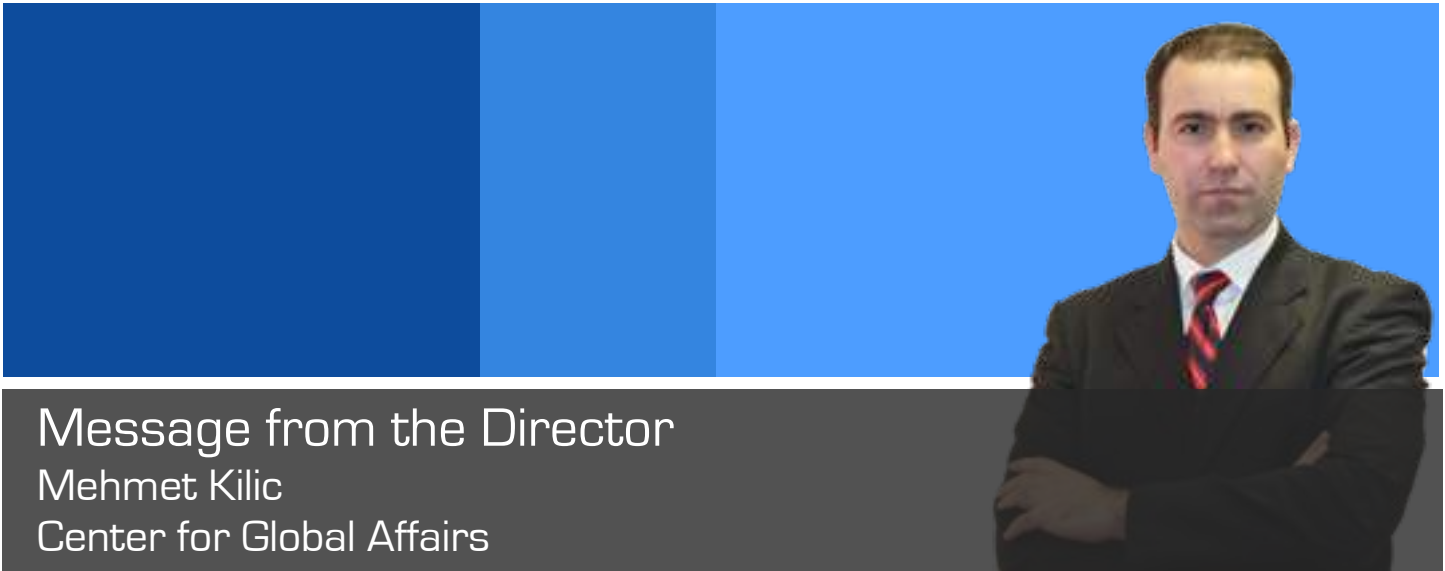
The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) was founded in 1994 with the main principle of promoting love, tolerance and dialog in society through its activities and projects. Its mission is to look for opportunities in building a common living space based on reconciliation and mutual respect by bringing hundreds of intellectuals from different cultural, religious, ethnic and ideological backgrounds together. JWF is an international NGO with General Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council.

### Ambassadors Series

Ambassadors Series offer a platform for distinguished diplomats accredited to the United Nations to shed light on global issues concerning sustainable development, global economy, migration, security and stability. The lectures given by Ambassadors aim to educate the global society about various perspectives and prevent conflicts through constructive engagement and dialogue and thereby contribute to peace and strengthen social co-existence.



Scan the QR code to watch the Ambassadors Series playlist at [www.youtube.com/piivideos](http://www.youtube.com/piivideos)



## Message from the Director

### Mehmet Kilic

#### Center for Global Affairs

Ambassadors Series is a platform that brings together diplomats accredited to the United Nations, academics, topical experts, business professionals and civil society to discuss global issues and exchange diverse perspectives.

In 2014, our main series titled “African Solutions to African Problems,” emphasized education, health, economy, culture, peace and security reforms on the continent. The solutions proposed during this panel promoted regional integration, public-private sector partnership (PPP), financing to sustain peacebuilding activities, boosting inter-African trade to grow the economy, and dialogue for the settlement of civil and transnational disputes.

This year was our most successful panel with 17 UN Ambassadors participating as speakers and over 50 Ambassadors participating in post-panel discussions. The main objective of our series is to provide authoritative insights into African progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By featuring diplomats from over twenty African nations, our panel facilitated an international effort to propose collaborative solutions.

We should admit that African problems are not only African problems, but they are global problems.

Many of our speakers asserted that Africa has suffered from a lack of peace and security, which often negates much of the victories the continent has experienced since the post-colonial era. A country afflicted by unstable and dangerous conditions cannot move forward

to focus on other areas of development. Poverty, education and youth unemployment also continue to be challenges for Africa. These are chronic problems that are based on past grievances dating back to the countries’ independence.

In the political sphere, many countries have gravitated towards liberal democracies. Economically many African countries have embraced a free market economy. Major improvements have been made in health, education and overall living conditions. Budgets have been purposely redirected towards these areas and the positive effects can be seen. In particular, the example of Botswana’s climb from its HIV epidemic that overran the country now provides medical aid to 95 percent of its citizens who need the treatment. In addition to political and social reform, financial aid also continues to be a hopeful area. The donor/recipient relationship has shifted to more of a partnership. This example of partnership can be seen among the public and private sector as well, known as PPP.

As a global citizen, I was so inspired by the content shared during our panel that I visited Ethiopia, Senegal and The Gambia to discover, first-hand the richness of Africa. During my time abroad, I met with government officials, toured educational institutions and became acquainted with civil society, youth groups and the local people. I learned that a greater degree of global collaboration is still needed to help improve current reforms and solidify them. Not only does the mindset need to change from the international perspective, but also from the African perspective.



Although Africa is open to collaboration, the potential lost from the brain drain of Africans in pursuit of education, health and opportunity is a challenge for the continent. An initiative has been set to change the brain drain into a brain gain and bring back the Diaspora to help Africa move forward.

Overall education, development and the potential of the Diaspora in propelling Africa forward were the hopeful takeaway messages. Africa still has many challenges ahead of it, but it continues to grow in potential motivated largely by its vast youth and Diaspora populations.

I want to thank our staff members for their selfless efforts to make Ambassadors Series possible. Our interns have contributed immensely in planning and organizing stages; therefore I would like to acknowledge Reema Hibrawi (NYU), Nicole Kangos (LIU), Sinem Cebik (CUNY-GC), Raisa Ahmet (Fordham Univ.), Fahrudin Djukanoic (St. John's Univ), Ebru Devir (Germany), Jacob Caglayan (Denmark), Shorat (Turkmenistan) and Dominic Deo Androga (Uganda). Lastly, our special thanks go to our food sponsors, The Sea Fire Grill and Benjamin Steak House for providing delicious luncheon for our distinguished guests.

Thank you for making our event a success!

Mehmet Kilic

Director

Center for Global Affairs, Peace Islands Institute  
Main Representative of JWF to the United Nations



H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud, President of Somalia



H.E. Linda Yang, wife of Prime Minister of Cameroon



Students from Yavuz Selim Schools in Dakar, Senegal



H.E. Dr Aisha Laraba Abdullahi  
AU Commissioner for Political Affairs





## African Solutions to African Problems

Education • Health • Economy • Culture • Peace & Security

### Introduction

Africa is the birthplace of humanity and civilizations. Since the beginning of humanity, Africa's experience with its history, culture, art, and music has been a major source of inspiration for the world. With significant progress made in overcoming its long-standing challenges on education, health and economy, Africa has become a major player in the international community in recent years. In this context, Peace Islands Institute would like to focus on the growing African involvement in international affairs and its influence on world heritage with a series of forums in collaboration with the Journalists and Writers Foundation.



*H.E. Maged Abdelfatah Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations*



*Lia Patrice Kopecky, Marketing Manager of our sponsor The Sea Fire Grill, speaking with Ambassadors before Panel 2.*



*Reema Hibravi, intern at the Center for Global Affairs*



## THE GAMBIA

**Capital:** Banjul  
**Languages:** Mandinka, Fula, Wolof, Jola, Serahuli, English, Other  
**Population:** 1,925,527 (2014)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 Total \$3.403 billion  
 Per capita \$1,864 (2013)



## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara  
 Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of The Gambia to the United Nations

Our moderator mentioned the initiatives undertaken so far at the continental level to move Africa forward. When you examine all the programs and projects being implemented, you notice huge misconceptions about Africa. And that is not only particular to people outside of Africa, even we Africans do not know it ourselves.

Conflicts in Africa are mostly fueled by interests in the natural resources, both locally and internationally. Remember the conflict in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Africans were left killing each other in the name of some irrational ideological beliefs, while a group called the “Executive Outcomes”, claiming to protect the diamond fields, looted and took the precious stones elsewhere, resulting in the well-known ‘blood diamonds’ scandal.

All these problems stem from a very long history where Africans fail to see themselves with their own eyes, but through the distorting prism of others. For example, when you look at the Education System in most African countries objectively, it always proves challenging to come up with a proper curriculum devoid of foreign influence. Outside support is always sought to fund this vital sector. There are universities and schools, but are they really dealing with development needs of the continent? Not really.

Emphasis needs to be put on things that will bring Africans together instead of superfluous problems that tend to separate them. Understanding African culture is important in

finding African solutions to African problems. In traditional Africa, knowledge was conveyed through “orality/orature”. Elders played a key role in alleviating situations and “griots” transmitted the messages from the leaders, while preserving the *modus vivendi* in society. As it was widely accepted that “honoring one’s word is noble”, “informal” agreements were used to settle intra-ethnic or inter-ethnic conflicts. Mediators actively applied the “joking kinship/relationship” technique, an unwritten agreement, to promote peaceful co-existence and create strong bonds of solidarity and mutual respect among the people.

Today, people fail to use these kinds of traditional ways of dealing with issues. It is worthy to recognize that the evolution of the African continent has shown that African leadership on African issues is the key to finding lasting solutions to the problems on the continent. However, Africa’s readiness to chart its own destiny must be manifested by proactive decisions and actions. Africa’s commitment to peace and stability has been demonstrated by peacekeeping troop contributions under the aegis of the African Union.

It is important to note that there are no readymade solutions to crises in Africa. A better understanding of the deep rooted cultures and improved education system are necessary to prevent wars and curtail outside exploitation. Africans have to occupy the driver’s seat in finding lasting solutions to problems plaguing the continent.





## UGANDA

**Capital:** Kampala

**Languages:** Baganda, Banyankole, Bakiga, Iteso, Langi, Acholi, Bagisu, Lugbara, Bunyoro, English, Swahili, Other

**Population:** 35,918,915 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$50.439 billion  
Per capita \$1,414 (2013)

## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Dr. Richard Nduhura  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations

African Solutions to African Problems has always been and is dear to our hearts in Africa. I wish to quote one of our founding Fathers, Kwame Nkrumah, who stated that, “The survival of free Africa, the extending independence of the continent, and the development towards that bright future on which our hopes and endeavors are pinned, depend upon political unity and African Solutions to the African Problems.”

The state of peace and security on the African continent remains a pre-occupying phenomenon, with continuing successes and challenges. Although it is instructive to note that not all the continent is beset by conflicts, where they exist, they have led to devastating effects, including: deaths to innocent civilians, refugees across borders, internal displacements, loss and destruction of property, disruption of socio-economic activities as well as costs relating to their management and resolution. Africa is endowed with a wealth of resources; both human and natural. Without peace, these resources cannot be fully and optimally harnessed to ensure the much needed development. The innocent people of Africa deserve a settled life to fully exploit their potential and this aspiration is enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) – to promote peace, security, stability and development on the Continent. The AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play a vital role in regional and continental integration. Their activities provide wider markets and production lines for the many African states that are small and generally uncompetitive.

African countries continue to spearhead peace processes aimed at resolving existing conflicts in the continent. Classic examples of region-led peace process initiatives include:

- The Arusha Peace Process that culminated into peace and stability in Burundi.
- Fighting terrorism such as Al-shabab (who have linkages with Al Qaeda) in Somalia by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
- The Kampala talks between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and M23 to find durable solutions to the conflict in Eastern DRC.
- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)’s role in facilitating dialogue in the recent conflict in South Sudan.
- Formation of the African Union Region Task Force to pursue the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

As African countries spearhead peace processes on the continent, they face difficulties financing them. Stable funding is required to support peace operations and post conflict reconstruction. More genuine support from development partners shall continue to play a significant role. Finding a dependable and assured mechanism to finance African Peace support operations will make peace, security and stability on the continent a reality.

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[www.facebook.com/PeaceIslandsNY](http://www.facebook.com/PeaceIslandsNY)



## NIGERIA

**Capital:** Abuja

**Languages:** Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani, English, Other

**Population:** 177,155,754 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$1.018 trillion  
Per capita \$5,600 (2013)



## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Dr. T.A. Elias-Fatile

Senior Counselor

Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

Africa occupies a strategic position in the world stage for many reasons. The continent is endowed with rich human and natural resources. The importance of Africa and recognition of its strategic role and place in the global affairs are amply demonstrated by the fact that seventy non-African states, regional entities and other organizations are accredited to the African Union (AU), headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Corruption, poor infrastructure, weak governance and conflicts are some of the challenges often cited as barriers to investment and effective regional integration. The African Union was established to address the myriads of problems afflicting the continent. It was expected to address Africa's socio-economic and political problems, which were compounded by the negative aspects of globalization. The goal of the organization was to have, "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

Today, African countries and the AU are making considerable progress in finding solutions to African problems. They have sought ways to end crises and have been playing significant roles in brokering peace agreements on the continent. AU member states have deployed troops for peace operations in several African countries, namely Burundi, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan, Mali and more recently in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Regional financial systems such as the Togo-based Ecobank Group, Nigeria's United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Group have also increased investments and assisted in the transformation of economies in the region. Strategies such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), instituted by the AU, assist member states improve their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Their major functions are to contribute toward building resilience among vulnerable populations, promote fiscal stability and increase productivity and economic diversification.

In order to address conflicts in the continent, Africa should promote the rule of law, apply democratic principles and strengthen democratic institutions. Countries should continue to increase investments in high-quality education, health and other infrastructure that can enhance long-term growth. They should use and adapt existing environmentally sound technologies to local conditions to transform their economies in sustainable ways. Lastly, Africa should lead in efforts aimed at finding solutions to her problems, with assistance and support from her partners.





## SOUTH AFRICA

**Capital:** Pretoria

**Languages:** IsiXhosa, Sepedi, Setswana, Sesotho, Xitsonga, siSwati, Tshivenda, isiNdebele, Afrikaans, English, Other

**Population:** 48,375,645 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$623.201 billion

Per capita \$11,914

(2013)

## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Kingsley Mamabolo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations

The topic today is about African problems and finding solutions to them. Africa has a rich history: the question arises, why is Africa still behind? Common consensus is the lack of good education, governance and transparency.

Solutions to the problems of poverty, food production and disease are sought for, while simultaneously working on capacity building to ensure the continents' self-reliance. To achieve these goals, development related issues such as energy, industrialization and technology, which are not well represented in the MDGs must be evolved past the 2015 agenda. Future programs should focus on the eradication of poverty and development of education.

On the economic side, financial aid is important, but it is not realistic to think that it can solve all development problems in Africa. Other means to finance and support development programs are needed. Opportunities that can boost African growth and trade networks and be useful in the structural transformation of the continent's economy need to be utilized. These opportunities include foreign direct investment, information and telecommunications technology and trans-boundary water networks.

However, several challenges hinder development progress in Africa. The first problem is tax collection. Efficient tax collection enables a country to support its own infrastructure, as in South Africa. The money accumulated from insurance and pensions can be used to build bridges and other

facilities. Another problem is the illicit flow of capital. It is estimated that Africa loses \$50 billion a year, through corruption. There is corruption both on the national and international scale. A framework is needed to formulate around this illicit flow of capital and necessitate the cooperation of the national and international community.

Our quest in Africa is to improve and strive for integration both politically and economically. Peace and security continues to be a very important aspect of development. Also a lot remains to be done in terms of education and health issues. Diseases such as malaria and HIV are still prevalent. In Washington DC this August, President Obama will be inviting African presidents to discuss these issues and Africa's collaboration with the EU. Cooperation with the international community is important, but as Africans, we need to be accountable to ourselves and take the initiative.

If you look at history, the Asian tigers did not simply come out of their dire economic situation. A lot of capital was injected into the economy to get them where they are today. Africa needs that as well. These opportunities should be utilized as they come. The natural resources in Africa provide growth as well opportunity for other avenues of development. Africa has the responsibility to achieve its own development goals with the support from the international community.



## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

**Capital:** Malabo

**Languages:** Fang, Bubi, Mdowe, Annobon, Bujeba, Spanish, French

**Population:** 722,254 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$19.286 billion

Per capita

\$25,929(2013)



## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Dr. Anatolio Ndong Mba  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations

In recent years, many African nations celebrated 50 years of independence. This important milestone marks a continent that has come of age and is determined to chart its own course. Africa has made significant progress. There are more democratically elected governments and multi-party states today than at any time since independence. African countries have implemented or are implementing reforms that advance the rule of law and improve governance.

Africa is endowed with natural resources, but its manufacturing base remains a small fraction of her true potential. The economic growth rate in the continent has been remarkable. According to The Economist, six of the world's ten fastest growing economies of the past decade are in Sub-Saharan Africa. To sustain growth, many countries on the continent are embarking on policies of diversification and infrastructural development to attract investors and build a solid foundation for development. In my country of Equatorial Guinea, the project "Horizon 2020", which was instituted in 2007, aims to invest in important sectors that strengthen economic growth, build important infrastructure, improve social welfare and reduce poverty.

As Africa continues to make significant progress in the political, social and economic spheres, the continent demands an even greater role on the world stage. Africa, while welcoming partnerships and international cooperation, is determined to chart her own independent course consistent with her values and interests. This leads me to the next phase in

the continent's evolution, which I refer to as the new Africa paradigm. There are several important factors that underpin this new paradigm.

First, it is important that African countries be regarded as equal partners on the world stage. This equal partnership can be realized by having Africa or its representatives participate more fully in regional groups such as the G7. Also, Africa must capture greater role in the value chain of her minerals and agricultural products in addition to seeking greater economic diversification. Moreover, the continent requires greater say in the management and governance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the past, policies were simply imposed on the continent and in some cases without regard to the cultural and socio-economic impact, resulting in negative consequences.

Africa is becoming an important driver of future global economic growth. It is now time that member states occupy permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Africa, with 54 members in the United Nations, is unfortunately the only continent without Permanent seats in an Organ where more than 70% of the agenda pertains to the continent. It is imperative that Africa be given this fundamental right in order to participate fully and effectively in the discussions and decisions for solution to her problems.



## EGYPT

**Capital:** Cairo  
**Languages:** Arabic, English, French, Other  
**Population:** 86,895,099 (2014)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 Total \$576.35 billion  
 Per capita \$6,714 (2012)

## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Osama Abdelkhalek  
 Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

I would like to begin by analyzing the waves of change in Africa. The first wave of change started over 50 years ago as African countries gained independence and the African Union (AU) was formed. The second wave of change was democratization in which countries started to change regimes and meet international standards - that phase is still going on. We are still witnessing changes happening even in my own country of Egypt. I wanted to address the paradox Ambassador Tete mentioned along three axes: sustainable development, peace and security and democratization.

Sustainable development is a real challenge. Which model should Africa use? The Chinese model? The Indian model? or Western model? in reaching a formula. The Green Economy has become a main talking point, but Africa is lagging behind since it has not developed sufficiently. Africa should have the opportunity to grow and meet the needs of its people to combat and eradicate poverty. Fair opportunities include transfer of technology, direct foreign investment and free trade.

We have to look at the European Union (EU) as an example, and follow suit. The EU started as a regional economic community, and now has become a political giant with a strong union, while the AU started more as a political platform and moved very slowly on regional economic integration. We need to borrow from the EU experience.

Coming back to African solutions, when you speak of solutions, you describe mechanisms, capabilities and empower-

ment. We heavily rely on external funds provided by partners. We need to develop a very strong base of finance to fund our own activities. If we do not, we will always be dependent on others and on priorities set by them. On the issue of corruption and illicit flow of cash, we need to continue working with the international community which has been able to track each dollar.

Democratization has to be cultivated bearing in mind the specificity of each society. The regional economic communities are building blocks in Africa. The sequence and cooperation from the state to the AU as our continental organization is of great importance. The future of the global economy needs to have more of African presence and so the international community needs to continue reforming governance structure for better opportunities for Africa. Africa is a place where in terms of demography, the younger generation is very strong. I believe we are on the right track. African unity is doable but it needs a lot of hard work and persistence. The younger generations are those in the present who can borrow from others, and be confident in their abilities.

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[www.twitter.com/PeaceIslandsNY](https://www.twitter.com/PeaceIslandsNY)





## CHAD

**Capital:** N'djamena

**Languages:** Sara, Arabic, Mayo-Kebbi, Kanem-Bornou, Ouaddai, Hadjarai, Tandjile, French, Other

**Population:** 11,412,107 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$31.448 billion  
Per capita \$2,787 (2012)



## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Cherif Mahamat Zene

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations

“African solutions to African problems” is not a new concept because Africa is already seeking and finding solutions to its problems with assistance from its partners. I will focus on issues relating to peace and security in the continent by describing the several mechanisms taken to prevent and abate conflicts.

To begin with I would like to give an overview of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). APSA is organized around structures, objectives and values that support early warning and conflict prevention. It is involved in humanitarian and disaster management, post-conflict reconstruction and promotion of democratic practices, good governance and respect for human rights.

A major security system in charge of conflict and crisis situations in Africa is the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC). It is composed of 15 members and has opened 13 liaison offices and field missions to assist in peacekeeping activities. Some of the challenges it faces are lack of funding, difficulties coordinating with the UN, external interferences and complexity of conflicts.

The African Standby Force (ASF), which is a major component of APSA, was created to enable PSC assume its responsibilities in deployment of peace support and intervention tasks. It is composed of multidisciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components stationed in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment.

Two important assemblages that assist in the prevention of conflicts in Africa are the Continental Early Warning System and the Panel of the Wise. The continental early warning system collects information on economic, political, social, military and humanitarian indicators and analyzes them with changing situations. Their main aim is to anticipate and prevent conflicts by facilitating decision making. The Panel of the Wise is composed of 5 African personalities, highly respected for their outstanding contribution to the cause of peace, security and development on the continent. It provides advisory services to the Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the AU Commission on all matters concerning maintenance and promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

Regional mechanisms and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are an integral part of the security architecture of the AU. They are responsible for the establishment of a force across the region. The PSC in consultation with REC promotes initiatives to prevent conflicts and undertake peace building actions.

In order to achieve the goal of ownership, the AU must provide the means to gradually overcome the challenge of outside support, which limits its freedom of action. AU Member States must contribute to the Peace Fund to finance peacekeeping operations on the continent and provide the necessary troops for operations. Strategic partnership between the AU and the UN should be strengthened to face the multiple security challenges on the continent.





## BOTSWANA

**Capital:** Gaborone

**Languages:** Tswana (or Setswana), Kalanga, Sekgalagadi, English, Other

**Population:** 2,155,784 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$35.989 billion

Per capita \$17,106 (2012)

## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Charles T. Ntwaagae  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations

Africa has increasingly become an important player in global affairs. Most of the countries in the continent have embraced liberal democracy and free market economies. There has been great public investment in infrastructure development, which includes roads, telecommunications, health and education.

The efforts in peace and security in the continent are a typical manifestation of the philosophy of “African Solutions for African Problems”. Regional mediation endeavors have been successful in resolving conflicts and civil wars in several countries such as Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Somalia.

Discovery of natural resources has stimulated economic growth and development in the continent. As an example, during independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the poorest countries in Africa, but with the discovery of diamonds, it transformed into one of the fastest growing economies in the region. Revenues derived from diamonds have been used in infrastructure and human resource development, as well as in the provision of health, education and other social services. Today, Botswana depends more on domestic budgetary resources and less on donor aid. Moreover, Public – Private Partnerships and cooperation with other African countries have expanded and continue to be exploited.

Botswana was one of the worst affected HIV/AIDS countries in Sub-Sahara Africa. HIV/AIDS was treated as a na-

tional emergency and Botswana became the first African country to implement a massive public funded Anti-retroviral therapy program, which was complemented by cooperating partners such as the Global Fund, President’s Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Vision 2016” is the National Vision in which Botswana aspires to be a peaceful and prosperous society by 2016 as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Independence. However, certain key challenges that negatively impact health, water, food and energy security remain. They include poverty, unemployment, especially among the youth, economic diversification, HIV/AIDS, and climate change.

The future prospects of Botswana are good. The recent discovery of coal deposits and the ongoing search for other minerals, including oil and natural gas provide a great potential for development. However, more effort needs to be put in diversifying the economy, with a view to reduce dependence on the mineral sector. Agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and the services sector have the greatest potential and should therefore be at the center of the economic diversification efforts.

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## BURUNDI

**Capital:** Bujumbura  
**Languages:** Kirundi, French, Swahili, English, Others  
**Population:** 10,395,931 (2014)  
**GDP (PPP):** Total \$5.488 billion  
 Per capita \$625 (2013)



## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Hermenegilde Niyonzima  
 Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations

Burundi, like its neighbors, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, has suffered a big deal of ethnic conflicts for nearly 5 decades. But analyzing deep down, what really happened in that country, one cannot overlook the responsibility of colonial powers, especially the 1885 Berlin Conference, which divided the region into separate states, with geographical boundaries.

As Benazir Bhutto indicated, “During the colonial era, imperial powers divided up and consolidated states at will. This lack of respect for ethnic and tribal lines often put two warring peoples into one state or split up a single people into two states. When independence was gained by these states, democracy broke down along ethnic lines and many times proved impossible to sustain”. Indeed, the Hutus and Tutsis, the two belligerent ethnic groups, are found not only in Burundi and Rwanda, but also in Buha, the West of Tanzania, in South Kivu, the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Bufumbira, the South of Uganda.

The geo-sociological situation in our Region and in other parts of the world worsens inter-state relationships and is the origin of civil wars and ethnic based trans-boundary aggressions.

Burundi became independent from Belgian colonial rule on 1st July, 1962. The departure of the colonizers gave way to a series of fights and assassinations fueled by ethnic propaganda. But, there are also other causes for the ethnic con-

flicts in the region. At the Earth Summit on the environment and development in Rio, June 1992, Sadako Ogata, the UN High-Commissioner for Refugees, attributed the increase in mass violation of human rights, social and ethnic tensions and armed conflicts to a complex combination of reasons linked to population growth, poverty, famine and environmental degradation.

There is cause-and-effect relationship between poverty and conflicts in Africa. The scarcity of resources cause competition, impede management of available resources and encourage infringement of rules. This explains the military coups and rebellious warfare observed on the African continent.

Another important factor that explains the war phenomenon in Africa is over population. Burundi is over populated – it has more than 350 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. This situation puts too much pressure on the environment. Democratic management of meager resources and provision of equal opportunities to access public wealth can assist in controlling conflicts that may arise due to over population.

The people in Burundi, with help from regional leaders, were able to overcome their conflicts through negotiations brokered by former Tanzanian President Julius K. Nyerere. The Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi empowered security forces and included all parties regardless of electoral outcomes.



## SENEGAL

**Capital:** Dakar

**Languages:** Wolof, Soninke, Serer, Fula, Mandinka, Jola, French, Others

**Population:** 13,567,338 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$26.574 billion  
Per capita \$2,026 (2013)

## African Solutions to African Problems

H.E. Abdou Salam Diallo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations

I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Mehmet Kilic, Director of the Center for Global Affairs of the Peace Islands Institute, who was kind enough to invite me and my colleagues present to these series of panels dedicated to Africa. The theme I have chosen to focus on is Education in Africa (with an emphasis on Senegal), in the current context of the definition of the post-2015 development agenda.

During the Rio+20 Summit held two years ago, countries renewed their commitment to promote education for sustainable development curriculum beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). UN statistics show that in Africa, only 61% of people over the age of 15 are literate, while the global average is around 82%. More than 50% of the 121 million children out of school worldwide are African. Such data demonstrate the magnitude of the challenges that Africa continues to face in the field of education and justify the initiatives undertaken by the African Union to make education an essential tool for development.

In the year 2000, Senegal hosted the “World Forum on Education for All”. Countries were advised to develop a National Action Plan to protect and improve education of young children, raise the level of adult literacy by 50% and eradicate gender disparities in primary and secondary education. In order to meet these targets, Senegal undertook a comprehensive diagnosis of its education system in 1998 and implemented a major reform with the Ten-Year Education and

Training Program (PDEF) as operational framework, in the period 1999-2008.

Higher education is arguably the best measuring tool of African progress on education. The number of enrolled students increased from 200,000 in 1970 to 4.15 million in 2010. However, only 4.8% of African women have access to higher learning compared to 7.3% of men. Policies targeted at improving the quality of education must have the objective of adequately training teachers, provide appropriate infrastructure and equipment, school supplies and good recruitment policy.

Given the evolution of the education sector in Africa, it is clear that African governments have realized that the development of our continent cannot ignore the need to improve performance related to the 2nd target of the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore essential that greater emphasis be put on deliberating this issue in the post-2015 agenda.

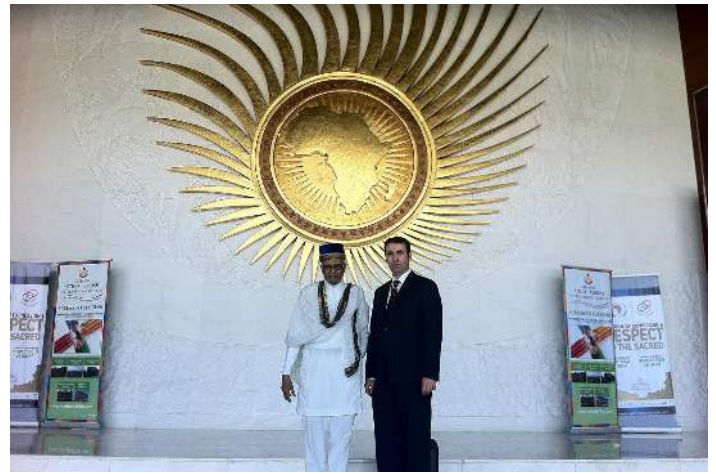


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## Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

### PANEL 1

Dr. Aras Konjhodzic

President, Federation of Balkan American Association

### Introduction

Ambassadors Luncheon Series is a platform that brings together diplomats accredited to the United Nations with academics, experts and civil society to engage with one another, discuss global issues and exchange multiple perspectives. This panel is titled Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and the European Union and was held on June 4, 2013 in New York. Ambassador Mirsada Colakovic, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to United Nations, Ambassador Milorad Scepunovic, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to United Nations, Ambassador Ranko Vilovic, Permanent Representative of Croatia to United Nations and Ambassador Milan Milanovic, Permanent Representative of Serbia to United Nations discussed their perspectives on integration with the European Union, the need for political cohesiveness among Balkan governments, implementing policies towards sustainable socio-economic development and maintaining long-lasting peace in the Balkans. Mr. Matthew Hodes, director of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization, moderated the panel.



*Mr. Matthew Hodes, director of the UN Alliance of Civilizations*



*Mr. Mehmet Kilic, director of the Center for Global Affairs*



## MONTENEGRO

**Capital:** Podgorica

**Languages:** Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian Albanian, Croatian, Others

**Population:** 625,266 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$7.34 billion

Per capita \$11,800 (2012)



### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Milorad Scepánovic

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations

#### H.E. Milorad Scepánovic

This is an important time for the realization of crucial national priorities. The realization of national interest must be based on regional and common projects with other nations.

The stabilization of the region was deemed necessary to ensure the support of an external organization. This is why Balkan Nations and the EU have a necessary common interest in transforming previous societal systems. The EU played a crucial role in the signing and implementation of the Stability Pact and reconciliation in the region. Montenegro began its quest for independence from the Republic of Yugoslavia by organizing events in relation to the Stability Pact and ultimately obtained independence in 2006.

The Stability Pact was a major tool for reconciliation and stability in the region to address historical events such as wars and other adverse occurrences that took place at that time.

The cooperation of the EU and other nations led to the establishment of the Balkan nations. The region is experiencing new initiatives, which are officially recognized and contribute to good relations with other Balkan neighbors. It is also important for the six nations in

the region to intensify their relationships with the EU on foreign policy issues, which will have a strong impact on the Balkan nations.

This intensification is the main subject of discussion among the six nations in the region. For Montenegro, ensuring full membership in the EU will advance democratization in the country and strengthen the rule of law, human rights, social and economic prosperity, peace and reconciliation towards all Balkan nations. Another important contribution of EU membership is the transformation of Montenegrin society to improve the country's future in keeping with the vision and ideals of the EU. Montenegro has had good history and legacy, which could be utilized by the EU for other member nations. The importance of the support and assistance of member nations in the following areas cannot be over emphasized: promoting stability and the sustainability of nations in the region, creating robust good governance, partnerships to create new opportunities and initiatives in the region or the member states, improved infrastructure development through knowledge sharing, business and trade partnerships and relations, combating organized crime and negative tendencies in the society and improved regional cooperation and integration.





## CROATIA

**Capital:** Zagreb

**Languages:** Croatian, Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, German, Others

**Population:** 4,284,889 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$80.62 billion  
Per capita \$18,314 (2014)

### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Ranko Villovic  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations

#### H.E. Ranko Villovic

The question I often encounter in New York is why our country sought to join the EU despite economic and social crises. From a historical perspective, some have argued that Yugoslavia had the strong EU contacts necessary for integration with the EU community and its ideas regarding progress in the region and stabilization in areas such as the rule of law, economic growth, human rights and good governance. These values would prevent political extremism, which we have experienced in the past.

Achieving political realism by engaging closely with EU will help to politically stabilize the region and develop the rule of law, human rights and a common market that provides the opportunity for the free movement of people will all necessarily bring important benefits to the Balkan nations. Other elements in favor of the EU project are the stabilization and normalization of the region. If the region is unstable, it will be difficult to achieve economic progress and the rule of law. As stipulated by the people, we cannot afford to have a barrier that will hamper development and growth in the region.

Croatia eminent accession to the EU will create numerous opportunities and the possibility for stabilization, development and growth. To live in an unstable region

is never a good thing to experience. Communication among the people in the region has been so intense that we cannot afford to have barriers. Croatia's vision is to ensure that there is stability in the region that will foster trade integration, political advancement, economic growth, human rights and the rule of law, making life better for everyone in the region.

A participant from the audience asked a question about the status of business and trade transactions when Croatia joins the EU. Ambassador Villovic explained that there would be changes in the region, changes in customs and immigration and the movement of goods. Expert teams are already in negotiations with neighboring countries and will develop solutions that will provide mutual benefits to all. It may not be 100% perfect, but with practice and persistence, EU membership will result in continual adjustments and reforms to ensure perfection in the near future. In the long term there will be many more advantages than disadvantages to the process.



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## BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

**Capital:** Sarajevo

**Languages:** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Others

**Population:** 4,284,889 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$33.25 billion

Per capita \$8,590 (2014)



Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Mirsada Colakovic  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN

### H.E Mirsada Colakovic

Despite the present security and economic challenges facing the EU, it is still of great interest for enlargement of EU by Balkan nations for the interest of the region. There are number of benefits that can be attributed to being a member of EU.

- Support for civil societies by the EU
- Strengthening democracy and respect for human rights
- Education improvement and collaboration with other EU member states.
- Fight against corruption, establishment of the appropriate rule of law and good governance.

EU is a new format for integration and strong relationship among member states. EU played a very important role in negotiation that led to signing of stabilization agreement by all Balkan nations with the US and other major nations' assistance. The constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a part of the peace agreement signed by all presidents of the three neighboring countries. Therefore amending the constitution to join the EU is a very difficult issue.

The EU integration builds support of citizen for a better future. Cooperation with neighboring countries is crucial and important to EU and for the sustainability of the entire region.

Ambassador Colakovic talked about the issue of road blocks and how they were dealt diplomatically. Because the region has a multi-cultural and multi-religious background, it is always poised with certain resistances. Things have to be negotiated to ensure that correct decision are reached. The peace agreement was signed by Balkan nations and the US. It was all about appropriate negotiations and understanding of system already implemented.





## SERBIA

**Capital:** Belgrade

**Languages:** Serbian, Romanian, Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Others

**Population:** 7,186,862 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$83.17 billion  
Per capita \$11,553 (2014)

### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Milan Milanovic  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Serbia to the United Nations

#### H.E. Milan Miloanovic

The need for Balkan nations to be EU members is absolutely compatible with the progress and prosperity of member nations and the region. If the membership process goes well for one Balkan nation, it will also go well for other Balkan nations due to stabilization, growth and political advancement.

It will not be easy for Serbia to secure membership in the EU because of the objections related to the status of Kosovo. The government's negotiations with the EU have substantially changed the perception of Kosovo. There was acceptance and tolerance, and now is the time to implement initiatives aimed at encouraging progress in the region.



*H.E. Sanja Zografska, Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the UN*



*SUNY Levin Institute - JFEW SUNY Global Scholars and Dr. Maryalice Mazarra*









## Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

### PANEL 2

Dr. Aras Konjhodzic

President, Federation of Balkan American Association

### Introduction

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*Dr. Aras Konjhodzic President of Federation of Balkan American Association*



*Mr. Mehmet Kilic, director of the Center for Global Affairs*



## ALBANIA

**Capital:** Tirana  
**Languages:** Albanian, Greek, Other  
**Population:** : 3,011,405 (2013)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 Total \$31 billion  
 Per capita \$11,400 (2014)



### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Ferit Hoxha  
 Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations

Albania is part of the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) – or otherwise known as the stretched version of the European Union (EU) enlargement process. SAP provides a comprehensive roadmap toward accession for the Western Balkans to the EU. Every country moves toward the EU through a series of steps, each conditioned on progress on reforms that is closely monitored by the European Commission. The Thessaloniki declaration of June 2003 – a decade ago – is the SAP Constitution. It sanctioned a privileged relationship between the EU and the Western Balkans, and promised no less than full integration into EU for all countries.

The yearly progress report produced by the Commission is the mantra; it makes a detailed yearly picture of where the country stands in complying with requirements and provides concrete recommendations.

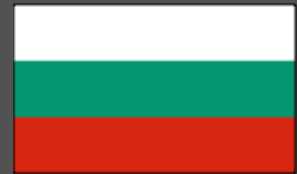
The relationship between Albania and the EU is more than two decades long and full of rich political, institutional, economic and trade interaction. In 1992, Albania signed the Trade and Co-operation Agreement and became eligible for funding under the EU Phare program. Over the years, much emphasis has been placed on the implementation and negotiation of chapters relevant to the EU legislation, the *acquis communautaire*. In 2013, a progress report found that Albania had made great strides on key reforms and formed a positive avis to the EU Council. Despite being acknowledged by the Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, for

the good progress, Albania's bid for candidate status did not go through. For now, the short-term goal is to get the candidate status by June and then proceed with negotiations for full membership.

Integration is important for the Western Balkan states and the EU. The EU has heavily invested and is engaged in the region. It has tremendously helped pacify and build strong regional cooperation networks. There is no denial that tangible features like free trade and more open borders, which allow the movement of people and single currency, facilitate modernization and economic development for countries in the region. But there is little backing for a more united Europe, especially amongst the younger generation who are less connected with history. It needs to be stressed that in a fast changing world, any of the EU member states would probably face more difficulties and challenges if left to face the complex world alone.

The top priority of the Albanian government and people is integration into the EU. In order to accelerate the process, the EU must ensure that accession negotiations with all countries – irrespective of how long the process can/would take, should be opened as soon as possible. Concrete targets have to be disbursed in a measurable and reasonably time-frame. The EU has been and it must remain a strong engine for economic development, improved governance, and progress in the rule of law in all the Western Balkan area.





## BULGARIA

**Capital:** Sofia

**Languages:** Bulgarian, Turkish, Romani, Others

**Population:** 7,364,570 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$106.8 billion

Per capita \$16,041 (2014)

### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Stephan Tafrov  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations

The European Union is the best thing that has happened to Europe in this century. Balkan countries, as part of Europe, are not different from the rest of the continent. Integration to the European Union will be of great benefit in terms of bilateral and multilateral reconciliations among Balkan nations.

In Bulgaria, one of the worst crimes committed was the prosecution of Turkish minority in the 1980s. Using nationalism as a forefront, the communist regime forced the Turks, who constituted 8% of the Bulgarian citizens, to change their names from Turkish to Bulgarian. At the time, I signed petitions against the prosecutions, but was not successful. However, after the fall of the regime, the first thing democratic Bulgaria did was to restore the rights of the Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin.

Bulgaria has been improving relations with all neighbors, especially with Turkey. As a diplomat, I have been part of this process. I experienced the emotional moment when during his official visit to Turkey, the then Bulgarian President apologized on behalf of Bulgaria for what happened in the 1980s. Turkey and Greece supported Bulgaria to become a member of NATO.

Bulgaria's target has always been to encourage the right of the Balkan people for self-determination and their right to join NATO and the European Union. This is the basis of our foreign policy. In 1992, Bulgaria recognized the four former Yugoslav republics; Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia. Bulgaria became a member

state of the EU in 2007 and is assisting Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia on their path to the European integration

It is important that the Balkan people - Bulgarians, Turks, Albanians, Greeks, Macedonians, Bosnians, to name but a few, combat negative images and stereotypes in Europe and in the world about the Balkan region, which is showed as unstable and war-prone. Initiatives and platforms like this panel and organizations like Peace Islands Institute will help resolve the many prejudices and misinformation about this region. Also, the Balkan countries need to collaborate to build the same perspective on their shared history by normalizing the history taught in their schools.

Governments should deal with work on infrastructure, the economy, culture and facilitate contact among people in the Balkan region. At diplomatic level, there has been great progress and continuity between Bulgaria and its neighbors, however, infrastructure in the region remains to be developed.

Another challenge is the fact that not all Balkan countries have recognized Kosovo as an independent state. This is an impediment for Serbia for its own integration to the EU. Also, it prevents Kosovo from joining international organizations such as the United Nations and degrades relations among the Balkan people.





## KOSOVO

**Capital:** Pristina

**Languages:** Albanian, Serbian, Turkish, Gorani, Romani, Bosnian, Others

**Population:** : 1,733,842 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**

Total \$13.513 billion

Per capita \$7,793 (2012)



### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Bekim Sejdiu  
Consul General  
Consulate General of Kosovo in New York

The Balkans has gradually slipped from the international political agenda and it is becoming more and more of a regional, namely an EU issue. This is good as the region has come a long way from the time of terrible wars, genocides and ethnic cleansing, to a point where the major issue in the political agenda is meeting the standards for the EU membership.

The impression is that “Balkanization”, a term used to depict bloody political fragmentation along ethnic lines, has left the space for “Europeanization”, a process of integration through meeting advanced political standards of democracy and market economy.

During the last fifteen years, the progress reports that the EU Commission issued every year have become a point of reference for measuring the successful political and socio-economic transformation of the Balkan societies. The challenges are huge and the points of departure are not the same for each state. The Republic of Kosovo had to pass through a three-fold transition: 1. From communist to a democratic/capitalist system; 2. From war-torn to a post-war society; 3. From pre-independence to independent political status.

During the last six years as an independent state, the Republic of Kosovo has demonstrated vision, capacity and commitment to embrace and enhance the standards of democracy, multi-ethnicity, human rights and marked economy. With policies of good neighborly relations and strong Euro-Atlantic tilt, the country has proved that it is an indispensable pillar of stability and progress in the region.

It is important to underline that the vision of the Republic of Kosovo is based on inclusiveness, interethnic coexistence and harmony – which are the core European parameters to manage socio-cultural heterogeneity. It has adopted the incomparably advanced standards for the protection of ethnic minorities, particularly for the Serb community in the country. The Euro-Atlantic integration for Kosovo is a national aspiration and a paramount political objective. It primarily entails integration into the EU and NATO. In October 2013 negotiations for the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) started and are expected to end within the first half of this year. This marks the commencement of contractual relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the EU.

The Euro-Atlantic umbrella is indispensable, not only for socio-economic prosperity, but also for peace and stability in the region. The significant political and economic reforms conducted by aspirant countries as they try to meet EU standards improve governance, strengthen democratic standards and advance their economic well-being. The EU provides a strong platform for integration into bigger markets and socio-political structures that are important in the global arena.

To conclude, good neighborly relations and regional cooperation are the backbones of the political and economic Europeanization of the region. We as a country will go to EU by making our region truly European. This is our one-way ticket.



## MACEDONIA

**Capital:** Skopje

**Languages:** Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Romani, Serbian, Others

**Population:** : 2,058,539 (2011)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$22.1 billion  
Per capita \$10,718 (2012)

### Intergovernmental Relations among Balkan Nations and EU

H.E. Goce Karajanov  
Consul General  
Consulate General of Macedonia in New York

In the past two decades, the Balkan region has experienced fundamental political, economic, social and cultural shifts. What once was a region torn apart by devastating conflicts is now comprised of 3 EU member states, 4 EU candidate countries and 2 more undertaking the necessary steps towards joining the EU.

The EU perspective served and continues to be a powerful catalyst for democratic reforms, transformation and modernization in the Balkan region. Indeed, sustainable reforms aimed at consolidating democracy, the rule of law, human rights, improving infrastructure and the business environment have been undertaken in the entire region. The EU has significantly contributed to the current outlook of the Balkans, which is now in an advanced stage of integration and more importantly, contributing in addressing the new challenges of global security.

It has always been a priority for Macedonia to establish and maintain good relations with all its neighbors. The country's economic development depends on the quality of links and networks formed. Relations have been and are being developed through a plethora of joint initiatives undertaken at the political, economic and cultural level. Great cooperation has been demonstrated through the signing of numerous international agreements and protocols and support of each other's candidacies at multilateral organizations.

The EU integration plays an essential role in regional agreements and stability in the Balkan region. It contributes to eco-

nomical projects, principally those concerning infrastructure and regional interconnectivity and necessitates growth and development in key sector areas such as employment policy, education and skills training, energy efficiency and research and development. Candidates and potential candidates should be asked to produce national convergence strategies geared towards these targets, which is a part of the EU 2020 strategy for growth and development. This does not mean the EU should pour extra money into the Balkans. Rather, it means setting different priorities in the region than in the past – for example support the transition to a new growth model based on competitive exports (IPA2, 2014 – 2020).

Pro-enlargement countries (the Visegrad group) should co-ordinate their lobbying efforts much more closely to assist the Balkans consolidate the EU agenda of democratization, stability and development. However, the Balkan nations, especially those already in the EU and those who are on the doorstep should show readiness for rational agreement and lead the way for full integration of the region into the EU.

The EU has invested a lot in the Balkans. Enlargement with the Western Balkans will have a positive impact in that it will become a stronger and more united continent. It will also contribute to its commitment to act as a global actor. Therefore, our vision for the future can be achieved only if we get closer and become reliable neighbors, and only if we recognize that we should learn from the past, while creating strong prospects for a better tomorrow.





Balkan-American students from Brooklyn Amity School participated to the panel discussion.



Zafer Akin (President of PIINY) and H.E. Narinder Kakar (Permanent Observer of IUCNY-UPEACE to the UN)





**BANGLADESH**

**Capital:** Dhaka  
**Languages:** Bangla, Bi-hari, Burmese, Rohingya, Others  
**Population:** 150,039,000 (2013)  
**GDP (PPP):** Total \$324.62 billion  
 Per capita \$2,083 (2013)

**BANGLADESH: A Success Story from the South Asia**

H.E. A.K. Abdul Momen, PhD  
 Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN

Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies in the South East Asia and Pacific region and has achieved success in socio-economic development, international affairs at the UN, the maintenance of global peace and security and in the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series featuring “Bangladesh and its role in the Global World” was held on March 21, 2013 in New York. H.E. Dr. Abdul Momen is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to United Nations, and he discussed Bangladesh’s success in socio-economic development and its role in global peace at the Ambassadors Luncheon Series organized by the Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists & Writers Foundation. Dr. Mohammad Niamat Elahee, Chair of the Department of International Business at Quinnipiac University moderated the discussion.

Bangladesh is a small country, the size of Iowa. However, while Iowa has a population of three million, Bangladesh has more than 160 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Youths represent approximately 73 percent of the population. Bangladesh was more or less dependent on aid from the international community in the past.

Bangladesh faces numerous challenges, but in recent years the government has been working diligently to improve the standard of living and move the country forward. Bangladesh seemed to face an endless series

of crises that would never be able to overcome all these issues, including challenges such as military coups. In some ways, those who doubted Bangladesh’s potential with respect to rapid growth and development were correct. However, Bangladesh has made some of the largest gains in the basic condition of the population’s lives witnessed worldwide in the past 20 years.

These achievements were made through market-oriented liberalizing policy reforms, improved economic performance, human development, poverty alleviation and social development, increased bilateral trade relationships, improved health, and increased primary education enrollment, especially for girls.

Bangladesh was admitted to the United Nations in 1974 and was elected to a term on the Security Council in 1978-1980 and again for 2000-2002.

Bangladesh pursues a moderate foreign policy that places a strong emphasis on multinational diplomacy, especially at the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Bangladesh plays a significant role in international peacekeeping activities with over 10 000 military personnel deployed overseas on peacekeeping operations, making it a large contributor to the UN peacekeeping forces. It is also a member of the UN Human Rights Council and fully supports and cooperates with the council in fulfilling its mandate. Bangladesh is a state party to more than 18 major international human rights instruments.

Our government believes that sustainable peace and development demand empowerment through education, technical training and skills acquisition, the prevention of discrimination, and the provision of decent standard of living that ensures the survival of the citizens.

Bangladesh is not an influential country, but it supports sustainable growth and development, climate change policy, and cultural diversity in South Asia and globally. Much progress has been made in eradicating corruption in the country and its impacts are gradually seen and attested to. Our government is working towards a digitalized Bangladesh, as it will provide additional development by incentivizing technology companies to invest in the country. The issues of child marriage and youth affairs are being strategically addressed on to ensure good end results.

We have improved domestic security from terrorism and punished those involved, as the government is determined not to have such events occur in the country. Good policies and public involvement have helped to improve the country's economy and GDP growth, created a high level of foreign investment, partnerships, and bilateral trade. This was achieved by having the government provide information on its activities, how they are funded, who does the job and how the job is done. In terms of bidding for projects, the government has created a website for tender submissions, giving qualified companies and individuals the ability to bid for the projects without any fear of corruption affecting who is awarded the contract for a project. Our industrial level is gradually increasing, although we continue to face challenges and are making every effort to ensure that progress is made. The micro credit initiatives, community involvement and well-guided principles are all contributing to development and sustainability in our economy.

Many of our successes are presently being applied as models in the health care sectors in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and other African countries. Our successes are transferable and could be applied in post-conflict countries to advance the MDGs in these countries.







## TURKEY

**Capital:** Ankara

**Languages:** Turkish,  
Kurdish, Azeri, Arabic,  
Others

**Population:** 76,667,864  
(2013)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$1.426 trillion  
Per capita \$19,080

### Turkey's Foreign Policy: "From a Regional Player to a Global Player"

H.E. Huseyin Muftuoglu  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations

Turkey is a star performer in terms of its economic growth; it is the 2nd fastest growing economy after China and is the 15th largest economy and 6th largest in Europe. Turkey is not only concerned with becoming a prominent economy but also intends to be an active player in international politics and mediation in its region and the world.

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series featuring "Turkey's Foreign Policy: from a Regional Player to a Global Player" was held on January 23, 2013 in New York. H.E. Huseyin Muftuoglu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, discussed new developments in Turkish foreign policy at the Ambassadors Luncheon Series organized by the Peace Islands Institute and the Journalist & Writers Foundation. After introductory remarks by Mehmet Kilic, Director of the Center for Global Affairs, Ambassador Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the University for Peace (UPEACE) at the United Nations, briefly summarized the achievements and challenges of Turkey's foreign policy. Ambassador Kakar described Turkey as an emerging political and economic power and

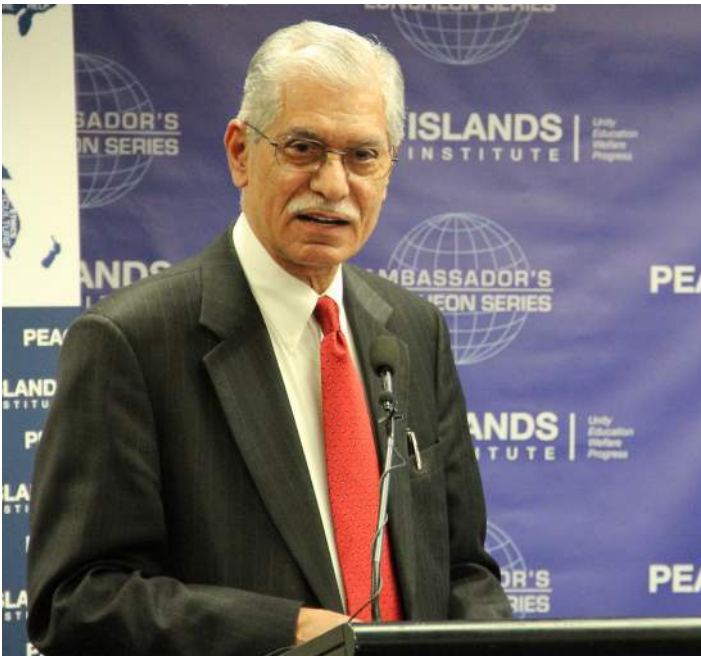
argued that it had become a more important and effective nation in world politics than most of the European Union countries.

Ambassador Huseyin Muftuoglu highlighted Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's argument on three "earthquakes" that have affected and shaped the international order in recent years: the collapse of the USSR, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and events in the Middle East and North Africa that are often termed the Arab Spring.

Turkey reevaluated its strategies and foreign policy stances after these earthquakes to protect its vital interests and improve its position in world affairs. Turkey's dynamism in the international arena, mostly in the form of international mediation, is evident in different instances, particularly in Syria-Israel relations, in the Balkans, in trilateral talks among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey and in the negotiations between P5+1 and Iran.

Moreover, Turkey, together with Spain, co-sponsored the establishment of the Alliance of Civilization, which





H.E. Narinder Kakar  
Permanent Observer  
(IUCN) International Union for Conservation of Nature  
(UPEACE) University for Peace to the United Nations

Ambassador Narinder Kakar is the Permanent Observer of the IUCN and UPEACE to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Kakar devotes half of his time for IUCN and the other half for the UN University for Peace.

An Indian citizen, Ambassador Kakar has extensive experience of the United Nations, including 30 years' work with UNDP, both in Yemen, Guyana, Turkey, China, Maldives, and senior positions in headquarters in New York City.

Ambassador Kakar obtained his B.A. from the Delhi Polytechnic and received a Diploma in Journalism from the Institute of Journalism in Delhi. He also received an MBA degree from Hacettepe University in Turkey.

He was a Research Associate at Harvard University carrying out work in the field of social development.

has been an important platform within the United Nations to develop relationships among the world's civilizations.

Ambassador Muftuoglu remarked that Turkey is bidding for a non-permanent Security Council seat at the UN for the 2015-2016 term, after being elected to the same position in 2009-2010 with 151 votes. This shows that Turkey's weight in international affairs has been steadily increasing and the international community has greater confidence in Turkey.

On the crisis in Syria, Ambassador Muftuoglu stated that it is a bleeding wound, which has not only affected the people of Syria but also neighboring countries through the substantial flow of refugees. Initially, when the civil war had just begun, Turkey attempted to convince Mr. Assad to make significant reforms to address the demands of the Syrian people, but these efforts were unsuccessful.

According to Ambassador Muftuoglu, President Assad could have been a hero of change, but he instead chose to be on the other side. Turkey has warmly opened its doors to Syrian refugees and established numerous camps to accommodate over 200,000 refugees. Over 400,000 US dollars have been spent on the services provided to the refugees.

At the end of the program, Mr. Mehmet Kilic presented a "Global Leadership Award" to Ambassador Huseyin Muftuoglu in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of peace, human rights, and conflict resolution, especially in the context of Turkey's vital role in furthering the goals and principals of the United Nations. It stated that he has inspired and educated many people about the hopes and aspirations of the Turkish people with his engagement and leadership.

Ambassador Huseyin Muftuoglu was officially posted as the Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Bangladesh, which was published in the Turkish Press on January 23, 2013.



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[www.youtube.com/piivideos](http://www.youtube.com/piivideos)



## Freedom of Expression: Countering Incitement to Hatred without Restricting Freedom of Expression

H.E. Ufuk Gokcen / Ambassador and Permanent Observer  
Permanent Observer Mission of Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the UN

The Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has been working to promote peace and the peaceful co-existence of all nations and traditions across the globe, leading to the adoption of Resolution 16/18 by the UN Human Rights Council: “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence based on religious belief.”

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series featuring the “Freedom of Expression: Countering Incitement to Hatred Without Restricting Freedom of Expression” panel was held on November 7, 2012 in New York. H.E. Ufuk Gokcen, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations highlighted the mission and achievements of the OIC since its establishment in 1969.

Dr. William F. Vendley, the Secretary General of Religions for Peace, moderated the program, shed light on violence and hatred related to religion throughout the world and shared his experience in armed conflict zones and how religious communities have mobilized to build a climate of peace.

“There is an imbalance between the two fundamental human rights; Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion or Belief,” said Mehmet Kilic, the Director of the Center for Global Affairs. “Over-reaction and violence as a response to the irresponsible practices of freedom of expression created conflicts and violence all over the world and took lives of innocent people and killed diplomats in Libya and elsewhere. We look forward hearing more from our speaker and the host on this important topic”.

Mr. Gokcen explained how the organization has transformed Islamic solidarity into action in recent years, enabling the organization to play a significant role in international politics. Being the second largest inter-governmental organization after the UN, the OIC began its campaign for change from within by reshaping its organizational structure in a manner that enabled the organization to build closer ties with the US government and the European Union. Established in 2001, the OIC played significant role in cooperating with member governments not only in combating Islamophobia but also in demonstrating that Islamic values were compatible with universal human rights ideological biases against other religions and cultures.





*Ambassador Jim McLay (New Zealand)*

*Ambassador Riyad Mansour (Palestine)*

The major accomplishment of the Commission was the adoption of Resolution 16/18 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence based on religious belief by the United Nations Human Rights Council. The resolution was based on the proposal of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary-General of the OIC, where he suggested eight practical points to facilitate domestic religious tolerance, respect and peace.

During his speech addressing the issue of “Countering Incitement to Hatred without Restricting Freedom of Expression”, Ambassador Gokcen explained the international community’s work in this respect and the consensus among the United States, European Union, OIC member states, and member states from other regional groups. He explained how the OIC has collaborated with the US, EU and other counterparts to develop a global understanding on issues related to peace, security and freedom of expression.

During the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council, the Secretary General of the OIC, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, proposed 8 points, forming the basis of a new era of his and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s efforts to address incitement to hatred. He suggested the actions listed below as a means to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect:

- (a) The creation of networks to build mutual understanding, dialogue and constructive actions towards shared policy goals;
- (b) Creating mechanisms in governments to identify and address areas of tension between different religious communities;
- (c) Training government officials in effective outreach strategies;
- (d) Encourage efforts by leaders to discuss the causes of discrimination within their communities and develop solutions;
- (e) Speaking out against intolerance that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;
- (f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence on the basis of religion or belief;
- (g) Combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons;
- (h) Open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas and interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

Moreover, Ambassador Gokcen explained how the OIC has transformed itself over the past seven years in line with the Ten Year Program of Action, adopted under the leadership of Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. The OIC has contributed to the promotion of democracy, the rule of law, good governance, and respect for human rights.

Ambassador Gokcen stated that in 2011, the OIC established an Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, which will aim to assist the OIC Member States in consolidating civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for their citizens.





## EGYPT

**Capital:** Cairo

**Languages:** Arabic, English and French, Others

**Population:** 86,502,500 (2014)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$576.35 billion  
Per capita \$6,714 (2013)

### Arab Spring and its Outcome in the Middle East

H.E. Osama Abdelkhalek  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN

The collective uprisings in the Middle East that began in Tunisia called the “Arab Spring” have changed the lives of millions of people living in the region and around the globe. Mass protests and demonstrations led to regime change and broad reforms in certain countries in the Middle East, namely Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Currently, the struggle in Syria has been ongoing for more than a year.

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series featuring the panel “The Arab Spring and Its Outcome in the Middle East” was held on April 5, 2012 in New York. H.E. Osama Abdelkhalek, Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, shared current developments toward democracy in Egypt, as the people of the country will hold their first presidential elections on May 23, 2012. Dr. Maryalice Mazarra, the Director of Academic Affairs at Levin Institute at SUNY moderated the discussion.

Ambassador Abdelkhalek stated that the revolution in Egypt had been in the making for many different reasons, especially the clear need for change in North Africa, not only with respect to economic benefits but also regarding issues related to official corruption in Egypt and the lack of social justice. He cited the example of a

civilian being held in prison for 6 months without any explanation. Ambassador Abdelkhalek also mentioned the corruption of public and government officials in Egypt prior to the revolution. He further mentioned that the Internet and social media facilitated the revolts that were led by the Egyptian middle class and youth.

During the question and answer session, many important questions were raised in relation to the current situation in Egypt and the role of women. His Excellency said that the Egyptian government respects the rights of minorities in the country, whether they are minorities in terms of religion, citing the Coptic Christians, or gender, namely women. His Excellency also discussed the current state of the Egyptian economy, stating that foreign currency reserves have decreased and the number of tourists visiting Egypt has fallen from twelve million to four million due to instability.

Ambassador Abdelkhalek explained that the impact of the revolution that began in Tunisia due to the need for change played a strong role in Egypt’s revolution. The issues of the one party system with no change in government, a lack of political freedom, reforms and human rights were among the key factors that led to the revolution in Egypt. Economic growth in Egypt in recent

years has not benefited the population; instead the substantial corruption among government officials prevented the wealth generated from recent economic growth from being shared by the masses. All these pressures led to the strong desire among youths to demonstrate at Tahrir Square and oust the Mubarak-led government.

Social media facilitated the revolution and played a vital role in the collapse of the Mubarak government. The Internet has resulted in numerous reforms and changes in undemocratic societies. He discussed the dilemma such governments face, noting that if dictatorial rulers permit increased Internet penetration, they risk overthrow; however, if they do not, they isolate themselves from the global information economy, causing economic decline. The authoritarian states embraced the development of the Internet and telecommunications infrastructure, at least in part, to reap economic benefits. Web-based activists then used the Internet and telecommunications to mount their resistance and organize mass demonstrations.

In the case of Egypt, digital activism led to the ouster of the president and the strengthening of the military. Social media have clearly empowered the country's literate classes and made them participants in a national political system that was long only open to the input of select societal groups. The military played a professional role by protecting the citizens, and they have the confidence of the people of Egypt due to their professional behavior throughout the revolution.

Egypt is transitioning to democratic system of government after decades of dictatorship. Presently, Egypt is experiencing an economic slowdown, declines in foreign investment and many other issues. The interim military government does not have the capacity or tools to improve the present economic situation due to their focus on instability and the transition to democracy. Parliamentary elections were held and deemed free and fair.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been the backbone of the major movements in the country due to the humanitarian services they provide for rural communities in the country. Such services include the provision of medical and personal assistance to these rural communities where the government had failed to provide them and schools with necessary amenities. These actions provided the brotherhood with strong social networks in rural areas.

The Ambassador noted that Egyptians with Islamic backgrounds were less corrupt characteristics than the former ruling party. A panel comprising all sectors of the society with strong legal knowledge was established to draft a new constitution for the country, which is expected to be a presidential system of government that borrows attractive elements from the French system.

Ambassador Abdelkhalek commended on the peaceful revolution in Egypt and the brave young men and women who risked their lives in the process. He believes that Egypt will not have another dictator or corrupt governments and government officials but will instead enjoy good governance, freedom of speech, economic growth and the benefits of a stable society.



*Dr. Maryalice Mazarra, Director of Academic Affairs  
Levin Institute at SUNY*





**Capital:** Sofia  
**Languages:** Bulgarian,  
Turkish, Roma, Others  
**Population:** : 7,364,570  
(2011)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$106.8 billion  
Per capita \$16,041  
(2013)

# How will the European Economic Crisis Change the Future of BULGARIA and the EU?

Hon. Radoslav Tochev  
Consul General of Bulgaria in NY  
Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series panel “How will the European Economic Crisis change the future of Bulgaria and the EU?” was held on April 24, 2012 in New York. Consul General the Hon. Radoslav Totchev shared his perspectives on the European Economic Crisis with respect to developments in Bulgaria.

During the program, the Hon. Consul General Totchev addressed the question of whether the economic crisis would change the European Union and Bulgaria by answering: “Yes!” Consul General Totchev mentioned he had expectations regarding the effects of the economic crisis but that global trends needed to reveal themselves. Hon. Totchev further discussed the history of the European Union, noting that the notion of the European Union was initially promoted by the United States to promote shared interests and the EU was not a federation but a partnership among nation states.



Furthermore, Consul General Totchev said that the members of the EU had an agreement regarding budgetary discipline in which the public debt to GDP ratio should not exceed three percent.

Hon. Totchev stated that the accumulation of deficits had caused the current debt crisis in Europe and discussed the hyperinflation in Bulgaria in 1997, which had reached more than 1000% in one month. As a result of the 1997 hyperinflation, Hon. Totchev said that the Bulgarian currency, the “Lev”, was pegged to the Deutschemmark and later the Euro, and in contrast to [some] European countries, Bulgaria had lowered its public debt from 120% in 1996 to less than 16% today.

Hon. Totchev stated that the crisis in Europe that began in 2008 had affected Bulgaria, but that Bulgaria was better prepared due to its strong budgetary discipline.

Question: “How will the European Economic Crisis change the future of Bulgaria and the European Union?”

Consul General Totchev: “I don’t know how, but the European Union will come out of this economic crisis stronger if strict measures are taken by countries struggling with budget deficits.”

**Dr. Roger Hanwehr** is a New York-based financial industry executive with a distinguished prior career in government and academia. He has served in a variety of high-level defense sector advisory positions and commands acknowledged expertise in articulating the impact of ‘Defense Technology Intelligence & Surprise’ - including cyber and space-based threats - the geopolitical dynamics of NBCE capabilities, as well as the ‘calculus of conflict’, to senior decision-makers. He has held senior faculty appointments at Johns Hopkins and George Mason universities, in addition to directing the NBC Threat Studies Colloquia at the MBT Program at Georgetown University from 1997-2003. His background in the development of detection and interdiction strategies against NBCE elements throughout the global security landscape are well known, as is his expertise on global conflict resolution, emerging WMD proliferation threats and electronic financial conflict. Dr. Hanwehr is a well-known international television commentator.



*Mehmet Kilic (Director of the Center for Global Affairs) presenting a gift to Hon. Rodoslav Totchev, Consul General of Bulgaria in NY*

#### Hon. Radoslav Tochev Consul General of Bulgaria in NY

Radoslav Tochev is the Consul General of Bulgaria in New York since April 2010. Between 2009 and 2010 he was the foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister of Bulgaria. From 2007 to 2009 he was international secretary of the center-right political party GERB (Citizens for a European development of Bulgaria), and from 2008 a member-representative of the political bureau of the EPP (European People’s party).

In 2004 he entered in service in the French public administration. He worked successively as Deputy Head of Bureau in the Directorate General of Treasury and then as Deputy Head of the European Parliament Mission to the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry of France. In 2006, he was seconded as technical advisor to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Consul General Radoslav Totchev has a Master Degree in Public Administration from the National School of Administration of France (ENA) and an MA in international economic relations from the Institute of European Studies - Paris.

He is married with one daughter and speaks English and French.





## ITALY

**Capital:** Rome  
**Languages:** Italian, German, French, and Slovene, Others  
**Population:** 60,782,668 (2013)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 Total \$1.847 trillion  
 Per capita \$30,803 (2014)

### How will the European Economic Crisis Change the Future of ITALY and the EU?

Hon. Natalie Quintavalle  
 Consul General of Italy in NY

The European Economic crisis continues to disrupt the global economy; moreover, uncertainty remains, and questions have arisen regarding the vigor and effectiveness of multi-lateral institutions such as the EU. Cautious investors began to eliminate their exposure to banks that might be affected, contributing to rising yields in places such as Italy, which worsened the prospects for Italian solvency. As Italian borrowing costs hit new highs, Mr. Berlusconi lost his parliamentary majority, leading to Mario Monti taking on the position of Prime Minister of Italy.

The Ambassadors Luncheon Series featuring the panel “How will the European Economic Crisis change the future of Italy and the EU?” was held on May 23, 2012 in New York. Mr. Abdullah Karatash, head of US Fixed Income Credit Trading for Natixis, moderated the discussion followed by a question and answer session.

The Italian Consul General in New York, the Honorable Natalie Quintavalle, described the origins of the economic crisis in Italy and European and international responses, shed light on possible alternatives to policies

implemented thus far, and finally explored the broader implications for Italy, Europe, the United States and the rest of the world.

Consul General Quintavalle stated that Europe has faced two major crises since 2008: the banking crisis in 2008 and the sovereign debt crisis. Hon. Quintavalle noted that the two crises, which could have had incredibly disruptive effects, were contained because public authorities intervened and continue to do so to provide economic stability. Hon. Quintavalle noted that the recession’s effects on financing in the banking system Europe are currently generally mild, but there are large differences between member states, and the Eurozone’s GDP is projected to contract by 0.3% this year and return to growth next year. Hon. Quintavalle also remarked that some European Union member countries [economies] are growing and price stability, a precondition for economic and political stability, has been maintained. The structural reforms remain the main lever at [Europe’s] disposal, and their effects are not immediate, nor can they be, but they will be effective over time and create jobs in due course.



Hon. Quintavalle addressed the question of the types of responses to the crisis that were pursued by European countries, saying that brave decisions were taken at the national level across Europe in the finance sector, the energy sector, and the labor market and the social effects need to be monitored. Some financial packages were launched to help ailing countries, specifically Portugal, Ireland and Greece, and EU treaties were modified to introduce the European Stability Mechanism, which was signed on February 2nd by the Eurozone member states.

Consul General Quintavalle discussed a new initiative adopted by the European Union called Europe 2020, which she said represents Europe's strategy for growth and jobs and establishes five specific goals: first for employment, second for innovation and research and development, third for climate change and energy, fourth for education and fifth for poverty and social exclusion.

This enumeration of objectives demonstrates the extent to which the crisis has driven European governments to take unprecedented steps to reinforce stability and increase economic coordination to a degree unimaginable three years ago. HE Mrs. Quintavalle then noted that despite these measures, the crisis persists and for some countries represents a real, crucial threat.

Consul General Quintavalle concluded her speech with a summary of the economic situation in Italy, remarking that despite high public debt, Italy still displays some positive economic data, with low household debt, no housing market bubble, a fundamentally sound banking system and no major external imbalances.



*Mehmet Kilic (Director of the Center for Global Affairs presenting a gift to Hon. Natalie Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy in NY*

Hon. Natalie Quintavalle  
Consul General of Italy

Consul General Natalia Quintavalle is a career diplomat with 25 years of experience. In the past ten years, she has worked on UN issues, first at the Italian Permanent Mission in Geneva, where she was in charge of the relations with UN specialized agencies, including WHO and ILO, and then at the Permanent Mission in New York, where she represented Italy in the GA Fifth Committee and was subsequently in charge of the economic and development office. She served until September 2011 as Deputy Director General for political affairs and Principal Director from United Nations and Human Rights.

Between 1986 and 1999, she served twice (1986-1988 and 1997-1999) at the General Directorate for Development Cooperation. She was appointed as Italian Consul in Toulouse, France (1989-1991) and as First Secretary at the Italian Embassy in Riyadh Saudi Arabia, (1991-1995).

She is Fluent in English and French. She is married with one daughter.



Scan the barcode to watch the video at  
[www.youtube.com/piivideos](http://www.youtube.com/piivideos)



## NORWAY

**Capital:** Oslo

**Languages:** Bokmål Norwegian, Nynorsk Norwegian, Others

**Population:** 5,136,700 (2013)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$282.174B  
Per capita \$55,398 (2013)

### How can Global Economy Contribute to Global Peace?

H.E. Morten Wetland  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN

Peace and stability are two important contributors to economic stability and sustainable development around the world. Newly emerging global powers such as Brazil, Russia, India, and China (the BRIC countries) and other countries including Turkey have the potential to contribute to building sustainable peace around the globe. The potential contribution of the international business community and civil society organizations to the peace process can never be underestimated, and it is high time that we recognize their critical role in peace building.

Countries that have enjoyed relative peace have recorded high levels of social and economic development compared to countries with perennial conflicts and social upheavals. For a country to achieve a rapid pace of development, all sectors not only require a secure policy environment but also a peaceful, progressive and dynamic social and political environment.

The ultimate goal of the Ambassadors Luncheon Series is to promote peace and maintain stability around the globe. The lectures given by Ambassadors will educate global society about various perspectives and prevent

conflicts through constructive engagement and dialogue, thereby contributing to peace and strengthening social co-existence.

Thus, ambassadors from United Nations Missions will share their knowledge, experience and perspectives with audiences from the United Nations, consulates general, academia, think tanks, journalists, and other professionals.

Oner Ayan (Financial Advisor at Artio Global Investors Inc.) moderated the program. Mr. Ayan gave background information on the economic development of Norway and Mexico before asking the speakers questions. Later, Mr. Ayan moderated the Q & A session with the audience. When discussing the BRIC countries; Turkey is also often mentioned as an emerging economy competing to become a global power. Its economic growth is not simply important in terms of increasing GDP or generating wealth but also to ensure that it has a say in global affairs and international relations. As a result of the world's rich population diversity, it is sensible to conclude that when more cultures and countries collaborate, great progress can be made. As the BRIC





## MÉXICO

**Capital:** México City  
**Languages:** Spanish, English, Others  
**Population:** 118,395,054 (2013)  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 Total \$1.927 trillion  
 Per capita \$16,111 (2014)



### How can Global Economy Contribute to Global Peace?

H.E. Claude Heller  
 Permanent Representative  
 Permanent Mission of México to the UN

countries are making their presence known through economic advancement, cooperation with the rest of the world becomes necessary.

**H. E. Ambassador Morten Wetland** highlighted that Norway had the highest level of female employment in Europe. It also has the highest birthrate, allowing women to have both a career and family instead of having to choose one or the other, as is the case in many other countries. He emphasized the importance of the European Union's contributions to peace. However, Norway is doing well and does not necessarily need membership. He discussed Norway's trade relations with China and that because service industries now dominate the developed world, there is a need for emerging markets to take over manufacturing. Economic cooperation is essential in peace-building and fostering progress between nations at a political and social level, and Norway is contributing to the global economy by maintaining low unemployment within its borders and working with the developing world.

**H. E. Ambassador Claude Heller** noted that NAFTA had greatly improved Mexico's status since the agreement's inception in 1993. He mentioned that emerging economies need to collaborate with world powers such as the U.S. and the E.U. to develop to their full potential. This can be in the form of trade agreements or investments. Considering Mexico's free trade privileges with the U.S. and Canada, it is no coincidence that the country's exports exceed those of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Venezuela combined. Mexico City is projected to be one of the top five fastest growing cities in the world. With increasing economic influence, Mexico, such as Turkey and China, is gaining international influence. By improving their economies and standing and entering the realm of global powers, these countries can exert their perspectives on global peace and create progress toward a better world.



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## ITALY

**Capital:** Rome

**Languages:** Italian, German, French, and Slovene, Others

**Population:** 60,782,668 (2013)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$1.847 trillion  
Per capita \$30,803 (2014)

### How can Global Economy Contribute to Global Peace?

H.E. Cesare M. Ragaglini  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

Mehmet Ozhabes, Vice President of the Chief Investment Office of J.P. Morgan Chase moderated the program. Mr. Ozhabes, echoing Ataturk, said “Peace at home, peace in the world” was Turkey’s policy in the past and remains consistent with the current government’s “Zero Problems with Neighbors” policy. “It is undeniable that [the] global economy can contribute significantly to peace”, said Mr. Ozhabes.

Mehmet Kilic, Vice President of Turkish Cultural Center of New York, began the event by stating that the goal of the Ambassadors Luncheon Series was to promote peace and international understanding. Mr. Kilic underlined the importance of economic growth and peace, which are two important factors for economic stability and sustainable development around the world. He also said: “the ultimate goal of the Ambassadors Luncheon Series is to promote peace and maintain stability around the globe.”

**H.E. Ambassador Cesare M. Ragaglini** remarked that individuals regard the role of globalization differently. Some say that globalization – a global economy – can contribute to global peace by helping to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment, thus helping to reduce violence around the world. However, others also note that globalization can lead to increased income inequality and cause more violence. Thus, the real question, he said, should be, “How can Global Economic Governance help Global Peace?” He emphasized that by ensuring the coordination of international forces to create balance and results that can be shared by all, we could arrive at a path to global peace. He made clear that he believed that the UN must play a role in this because it was the most legitimate and strongest power. “After all, it is the Security Council that decides on peace and war,” said Ragaglini. He concluded his remarks by saying, “The heart of the program must be that people need to understand that the dividends of peace are much greater than the dividends of war.”





## SOUTH KOREA

**Capital:** Seoul

**Languages:** Korean,  
Others

**Population:** 50,219,669  
(2013)

**GDP (PPP):**  
Total \$1.755 trillion  
Per capita \$34,777  
(2014)



### How can Global Economy Contribute to Global Peace?

H.E. Shin Boo-Nam  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN

**H.E. Ambassador Shin Boo-Nam** spoke of the historic partnership between Korea and Turkey and said that he regarded the two countries as examples for developing nations. He answered the question of the day by explaining Korea's experiences. He said that a vicious cycle exists: when the economy does not develop, violence will. In Korea's experience, after the Korean War, political and economic instability were apparent throughout the nation. This instability led to mass poverty. The government, however, made the wise choice of focusing on economic growth first. They emphasized human resource development – they thereby helped reduce unemployment and allowed for the future development of the working class. Second, they focused on economic stability. Third, the government focused on political leadership. Korea has become an important economic power and a member of the G20. "It is through our experiences that other countries can learn" said Boo-Nam. He concluded by noting that we must pursue economic stability and development to find a way to global peace.

After the presentations, the audience asked questions of the Ambassadors regarding the global economy and current conflicts in the world. During the receptions, some of the guests had the opportunity to elaborate on their concerns regarding peace initiatives implemented by the United Nations, the United States of America and the European Union.

Some of the guests were H.E. Hilmi Akil, the Permanent Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Hon. Francesco Maria Talo, Consul General of Italy, Hon. Zvonko Mucunski, Consul General of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Yong Koo Kang, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, Mr. Sertac Guven, Third Secretary of the Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus, and Ms. Simonetta Magnani, the Cultural Attaché of the Italian Institute of Culture.



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