

55th

GRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME

3-14 July 2017



BIOGRAPHIES

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Monday 3 July

Ms. Alessandra VELLUCCI
United Nations Information Service (UNIS)



Alessandra Vellucci, is the Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva. She was previously serving as Chief of the Intergovernmental Support Service, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, since November 2014, where she coordinated intergovernmental meetings, provided support to Member States, and implemented UNCTAD's documentation programme.

From December 2010 until November 2014, she was Chief of the Press and External Relations Section, United Nations Information Service, Geneva, where she organized media-related aspects of high-level events such as the Geneva conferences on Syria, and outreach initiatives such as the 2012 Open Day. She also served as deputy spokesperson of the United Nations in Geneva, and provided media-related support to ECOSOC, the Conference on Disarmament, the

Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committees.

Before joining UNOG, Ms. Vellucci worked for UNCTAD in several progressively responsible positions for nearly 20 years, including for the organization of several ministerial conferences such as UNCTAD VIII, IX and X, the United Nations Summit on Trade Efficiency and the UNCTAD Partners for Development Summit. From March 2003 to November 2010, Ms. Vellucci worked at the Human Resources Development Section of UNCTAD, including as its Chief from September 2007. She was a Public Information Officer at UNCTAD from September 2000 to February 2003, and served as the Focal Point for Communication on Trade Efficiency from June 1994 to August 2000. She joined UNCTAD in 1991 as an Associated Expert on Training.

Ms. Vellucci has a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations, specialized in International Law, from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland (1987 to 1992) and a University degree in Political Science, specialized in International Relations, from the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali, Rome, Italy (1982-1987). She speaks English, French Spanish and Italian. [@UNGeneva](#)

Mr. Rhéal LEBLANC
United Nations Information Service (UNIS)

A communication professional with a career spanning more than 25 years, in internal communication, strategic communication, media relations, public outreach, publications production, global awareness-raising campaigns and web communication. Rheal is currently Chief of the Press and External Relations Section of the Information Service at the UN Office at Geneva. He previously was the Communication Programme Manager of the Universal Postal Union at its HQ in Bern. Earlier in his career he occupied various functions at Canada Post, including Director of Communication.

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Ms. Dominika TOMASZEWSKA-MORTIMER
United Nations Information Service (UNIS)



Dominika joined the United Nations in January 2016 as an Associate Public Information Officer, in the Press and External Relations section of the UN Information Service in Geneva. She focuses on press and outreach-related activities, as well as social media. She previously worked for more than 10 years in the communications/PR field in the private sector, in Paris as a PR/advertising executive and in New York as a communications manager. She holds diplomas in Political Science and in marketing from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris (Sciences Po) and in corporate law from the Université Paris II – Panthéon-Assas.

[@DL Mortimer](#) [@UNGeneva](#)

Mr. Michael WILLIAMS
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Michael Williams joined the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in June 2012 as the Chief of Communications and Public Affairs. The WMO communications team is responsible for press relations, social media, the WMO website, the production of public information materials, exhibits, special events and other public outreach activities. In addition to overseeing these activities, Mr Williams has a special interest in working with weather presenters to engage them as climate and climate change communicators.

Before joining Mr Williams served as External Relations Manager with the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) from 2007 to 2012. From 1992 to 2007 he was an information officer with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In this capacity he acted as spokesperson and managed information activities for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, and the conventions on hazardous wastes and chemicals. He also worked on post-conflict assessments, environmental monitoring, regional seas, and other issues.



Ms. Viviane BRUNNE
Office of the Director General (UNOG)



Viviane Brunne works at the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva, where she is in charge of preparing speeches and political analysis on various topics on the UN agenda, including peace and security, humanitarian affairs, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Throughout the year she is involved in organizing numerous innovative events. She has a doctorate in political science and 15 years of experience in international political affairs and social and economic development with specializations in global public health and population policy. She has previously worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNAIDS and as the Executive Director of the German AIDS-Society. Her regional experience is in the EU and Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. She has provided policy-advice to governments on national strategies and has experience in research, teaching and training, communication and outreach, public-private partnerships and network-building. She is fluent in German, English and French, with a good working knowledge in Russian.

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Ms. Céline BAULOZ
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Céline Bauloz is Migration Law Specialist in the International Migration Law Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM). Prior to joining IOM, Céline was Visiting Professor of International Law at Bocconi University (Milan, Italy), Legal Expert for the European Asylum Support Office (European Union) and the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (European Chapter), as well as Managing Editor of the *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (Oxford University Press). Céline also previously worked as Senior Researcher at the Global Migration Centre (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), Postdoc Researcher at the National Center of Competence in Research – The Migration-Mobility Nexus (NCCR – On the Move, University of Fribourg), Visiting Researcher at Harvard Law School and Teaching Assistant at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. For the past ten years, she has regularly served as consultant for international and non-governmental organizations.



Céline holds a PhD in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, a MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and a MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva.

Ms. Anne ALTHAUS
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)



A qualified lawyer (Geneva bar, 2000) specialized in human rights and international criminal law, Anne works as a migration law officer within the International Migration Law (IML) Unit of the IOM since 2013. The IML Unit is responsible for the dissemination and understanding amongst IOM counterparts of the international legal standards governing migration and providing protection of the rights of individuals involved in migration, thereby promoting migration governance within the rule of law. Anne focuses on access to justice of migrants, the rights of migrant children, legal issues linked to the risk of statelessness of migrants, as well as transnational and international criminal law linked to migration. She advises States on their migration legislations and best practices, organizes and provides IML trainings for government officials and other migration stakeholders, and participates to a variety of capacity building activities in migration law. Before that, Anne worked at the IOM for the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme (GFLCP), - that provided reparations for victims of slave and forced labour during WWII- , at the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, at the ICRC and in the law firm Lachat Harari, in Geneva.

Anne holds a LL.M. in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law from the Academy of Human Rights (ADH, Geneva, previously the CUDIH), the bar exam and a law degree from the University of Geneva.

Ms. Sarah MARSHALL

United Nations Mine Action Service

Sarah Marshall was appointed as Chief of the UNMAS Geneva Office in February of this year. In Geneva, UNMAS represents the UN humanitarian mine action hub, where it serves, inter alia, as Coordinator of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, a responsibility delegated by its close partner UNHCR. It also serves as the UN expert resource for mine action-related instruments of International Humanitarian Law, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Mine action plays a unique role in bridging the sectors of security, peacebuilding, stabilization and humanitarian and development affairs, and so UNMAS Geneva plays an invaluable role in the effective dialogue and triangulation between mine action programmes established in affected countries, the Geneva-based humanitarian community and UNMAS New York HQ.

Sarah has been working in the field with UNMAS since 2009, mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance in high pressure emergencies. She has worked in Sudan, Libya, Afghanistan and most recently initiating and leading the response to the Syria crisis. She has seen at first hand the positive impact that mine action activities have on affected populations, both during and post conflict. Prior to the United Nations, Sarah was a commissioned officer in the British Army and is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. She also holds a Masters in Non Proliferation and International Security from King's College London.



Tuesday 4 July

Mr. Salvatore PEDULLA

Office of the Special Envoy for Syria (OSE)

Salvatore Pedulla is currently serving as Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Syria where he leads the Office's engagement with Syrian civil society and is responsible for the OSE Secretariat of the Humanitarian Task Force of the ISSG. He is a staff member of the UN Secretariat and was previously on secondment to UNRWA, serving as Senior Regional Adviser in the Executive Office of the Commissioner-General.

Salvatore studied at the London School of Economics, the Institute of Political Studies in Paris (Sciences-Po) and the School of Diplomacy of the University of Trieste in Italy. He began his professional life at the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank in Washington DC before joining the UN Secretariat.

Since joining the UN, he served in a variety of functions in different political missions in the Middle East, including as the UN Donor Relations Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Special Assistant and Political Affairs Officer at the UN Political Mission in Lebanon (UNSCOL) and as Deputy Head of the UNAMI (Iraq) Liaison Office in Tehran.

Mr. Marco KALBUSCH

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)



Marco Kalbusch, is the Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament and Deputy to the Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, based in Geneva, Switzerland. He also provides substantive support to the High Level Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty Expert Preparatory Group established by the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Before being appointed to Geneva, he was the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), based in Lomé, Togo. He also served with OHCHR as a Human Rights Officer in different positions in Burundi, Somalia and as Deputy Regional Representative for Southern

Africa, with the Department for Disarmament Affairs at United Nations Headquarters in New York and in UN peace operations in East Timor and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has expertise in the areas of disarmament, mine action, security sector reform, human rights, international humanitarian law and transitional justice. Mr. Kalbusch was the legal advisor to the UN Commission of Inquiry on serious human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire, part of the SADC legal team to support the implementation of the Madagascar roadmap.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Kalbusch worked with the European Commission. He did his legal clerkship at the Court of Appeal of Nuremberg, with secondments to the European Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and lectured at the University of Passau.

He holds a German and a Belgian law degree from the University of Passau and the Catholic University of Louvain, as well as a degree in canon law. He was awarded a doctoral degree in law from the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg. Mr. Kalbusch is a permanent staff member of the United Nations Secretariat.

Wednesday 5 July

Dr. Josep GARI

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)



Josep is a UN professional and diplomat, with over 15 years of experience in international cooperation. He is senior policy advisor for sustainable development at UNDP, based in Geneva. He previously worked at the World Bank, FAO and the Inter-American Development Bank, providing project and policy support *in situ* to more than 30 countries, notably in Africa and Latin America. Josep has also served in multilateral diplomacy for agriculture and the environment, playing an active role in the negotiations for the *International Seed Treaty* and the Congo forest & climate agreement. He has directed various international cooperation programmes, some UN missions for rural recovery, and two regional units for sustainable development. Josep received a PhD in Political Ecology from the University of Oxford and was a lecturer at the ESADE business & law school, the Autonomous University of Barcelona and FLACSO/Ecuador. He is currently a guest lecturer on green diplomacy, collaborating with various universities and outreach programmes. Josep is fluent in Catalan, English, French and Spanish, also serving on the editorial board of the *UN Society of Writers*.

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https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Josep_Gari

Mr. Lucio MELANDRI

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Lucio Melandri, joined UNICEF in 2010. He brings over 25 years' experience in international humanitarian interventions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Middle East, where he contributed to the humanitarian response to main complex emergencies.

In the beginning of 2016 Mr. Melandri has been appointed as Senior Emergency Manager for UNICEF Refugee & Migrant Response in Europe.

From 2013 to 2016 Mr. Melandri operated in Jordan coordinating UNICEF emergency response to the refugee influx to Jordan and its humanitarian implications.

Prior to his deployment in Jordan in 2013, Mr. Melandri served as Emergency Coordinator with UNICEF in Pakistan where he coordinated the humanitarian response to the 2010 floods and to the conflict-related population displacement from the North-West Province.

Since the beginning of the nineties he operated with the International Movement of the Red Cross, where he was instructor of International Humanitarian Law. From 1995 he served with International NGOs, where he has been also appointed as Director General of major organizations. He served with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Senior Humanitarian Adviser, with UNOCHA as Team Leader for Civil-Military Coordination and as Chief of Kandahar Office, for the Southern Region in Afghanistan.

Mr. Melandri earned a bachelor of Law (LL.B), a Master in Finance Sciences (MFin) and a Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership (HLP) with Deakin University in Melbourne – Australia.

Since 2013 Mr. Melandri is a member of the Board of Directors of PHAP (Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection), based in Geneva. He collaborates with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Deakin Humanitarian research Centre and other academic and humanitarian "Think-Tanks". Mr. Melandri is an Italian citizen.



Friday 7 July

Mr. Tarik JASAREVIC
World Health Organization (WHO)



Tarik Jasarevic works for the World Health Organization (WHO). Originally from Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), he studied in Tunis, Paris and Damascus and holds a master's degree in political science.

Throughout his career, he has gained a lot of experience in emergencies. He worked with UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo, East Timor and Haiti. He also worked for Doctors without borders (MSF) in Sudan and Congo as project coordinator.

Since 2008, he has worked for WHO. He took up the position of Spokesperson five years ago.

Ms. Gunilla VON HALL
Svenska Dagbladet, Foreign Correspondent, Geneva

Gunilla has been working for Svenska Dagbladet in Geneva for more than 20 years. Regarding international Geneva, she covers mainly human rights, humanitarian issues, trade, labor and health. She also reports on humanitarian crises and refugees and has recently traveled to Syria and Lebanon to cover the conflict on the ground. Every month, she publishes more than 20 articles related to international Geneva. From 1990 to 2000, she was a war correspondent, with Geneva as a base, covering the Gulf War, as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



[@GunillavonHall](#) [@SvD](#)

Monday 10 July

Mr. Scott WEBER
Interpeace



Mr. Weber is the Director-General of Interpeace, an independent, international peacebuilding organization and a strategic partner of the United Nations. With over 300 peacebuilders in 22 conflict zones across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, Interpeace aims to strengthen the capacities of societies to manage conflict in non-violent ways. Interpeace also assists international leaders and the United Nations to play a more effective role in supporting peace efforts around the world. As Director-General, Mr. Weber provides strategic direction to the organization and oversees its operations, partnerships and budget.

Mr. Weber is a member of the Steering Committee of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), as well as of the Post-conflict and Peace Education Alliance of the Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF) hosted by the Varkey Foundation. Mr. Weber is committed to diversity and inclusion and is an International Gender Champion. He was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2009. In his spare time, he works with schools and universities to integrate Peace Education into their teaching practices and curricula.

Mr. Weber holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Economics and Russian from Georgetown University and Certificates of Executive Education in Leadership from Harvard University's JFK School of Government and Oxford University's Saïd Business School.

[@Scott M Weber](#)

Wednesday 12 July

Mr. Ahmad FAWZI
UN Refugee Agency



Ahmad Fawzi was until recently the Director, a.i., of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva. In 2012 he was Communication Advisor and Spokesman for the Joint UN/LAS Special Envoy for Syria, former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and for his successor Lakhdar Brahimi. Mr. Fawzi also worked with Lakhdar Brahimi in Afghanistan and Iraq; Sergio Vieira de Mello in Timor Leste and Iraq, and Ian Martin in Libya, as communication advisor and spokesman. In those countries in, or emerging from, conflict, Fawzi promoted the development of free,

independent and pluralistic media. He has travelled extensively with three Secretaries-General on missions to the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Fawzi has served the United Nations in progressively senior positions of responsibility, starting in 1992 as Deputy-Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In 1997, he was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the post of Director of the UN Information Centre in London for the UK and Ireland.

In 2003 he was promoted to the position of Director of the News and Media Division of the Department of Public Information in New York. His responsibilities included overseeing the output and management of three major services: the Internet Service, the Radio and Television Service, and the Press Service, with a staff of over 200, and a biennial budget of US\$52 million.

Fawzi also contributed to the formulation of UN public information strategies and in the establishment of communication priorities for the UN. He was a member of the Strategic Communication Group that met regularly to make recommendations to the Secretary-General and his team. He promoted interaction with the press, broadcasters and other media to ensure their understanding of the goals and activities of the United Nations.

Ahmad Fawzi joined the UN after a career in broadcast journalism. Working for Reuters Television, he covered the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and was based in London, Cairo, Prague and New York. Earlier in his career he worked as Chef de Cabinet for Egypt's First Lady Jehan El-Sadat.

Thursday 13 July

Mr. Rolando GOMEZ

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



Mr. Gómez serves as Spokesperson for the Human Rights Council, at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) since 2008. He started his career as film production coordinator. For over 24 years, Mr. Gómez has worked with the United Nations, starting in the early 1990's as a peacekeeping specialist at the Secretary-General's Spokespersons Office at the UN headquarters in New York. He then took part in several UN peacekeeping missions. He moved to the United Nations Office at

Geneva in 2003 where he initially worked in the Information Service. After assisting in the organization of the GSP in 2006 and 2007, he moved full-time to the OHCHR, which allowed him to focus exclusively on human rights. He holds a Bachelor in Communications from the Stonehill College in Massachusetts and a certificate from the NYU in Film Theory and Production.

[@UN_HRC](#)

Ms. Vanessa HUGUENIN

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Vanessa Huguenin is a public information officer in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva. Her role is to provide media with information on ongoing humanitarian crises but also to bring humanitarian needs and people at the center of the debate. Prior to joining the United Nations in 2005, Ms. Huguenin worked as a research assistant and spokesperson for NGOs supporting migrants. After working on EU/UN cooperation on field coordination in disaster response in OCHA, she later joined the Spokesperson Office and OCHA communications branch. In addition to media relations she is also in charge of giving lecture to academics on humanitarian affairs and OCHA's role.

She holds a Masters in Political Science, from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lausanne.

