



2024 Global Engagement Summit Career Connex Speakers



Bradley M. M. Bewkes is an award-winning technologist, former elected public official, and entrepreneur. He currently holds the position of Director of Business Development for [Idealist](#), a nonprofit technology platform where 150,000 organizations and businesses around the world post social-impact job, internship, and volunteer opportunities. Bradley serves on several tech advisory boards within CUNY, the public university system of New York City, and also serves on the board of Opportunity to Restore, part of Operation Restoration, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting women and girls impacted by incarceration. In addition, Bradley is a Manhattan landlord, controlling a

corner building on 64th & Lexington.

Previously, he held elected office in Stamford, Connecticut, on the Board of Representatives. The Board is the legislative and oversight body of Stamford, a municipal corporation serving 130,000 residents with a \$600 million budget and \$23 billion grand list. Bradley has spent two decades establishing and expanding various enterprises in sectors such as apparel, consumer goods, and fitness including with brands DDCLAB, owned by New Balance Athletic, Michael Kors, and Karl Lagerfeld.



Erin Tyler is currently a Public Diplomacy Officer for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO). She joined the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 2014. She served as an International Relations Officer for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (2020-2022), the Vice Consul in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (2018-2020), and the Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Algiers, Algeria (2015-2017). Prior to joining the State Department, she worked as a Program Officer with the Fulbright Foreign Student Program at AMIDEAST and at First Book, an international literacy nonprofit. Erin was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Armenia from 2003-2005. Erin holds a B.A. from Miami University in

Oxford, Ohio, and a M.A. in International Affairs with a concentration in conflict and conflict resolution at George Washington University. She speaks German and French. Erin is an Ohio native, and lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and son.



Gagan Vaseer is a Programme Management Officer within the Office of the Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations Secretariat, where he oversees innovation strategy for organization-wide operational support. Before joining the United Nations, he built a career in the private sector doing management consulting for public and commercial clients at Deloitte and Guidehouse, and driving strategy and effectiveness initiatives at Google. Gagan began his professional career in education, where he served as an elementary school teacher as a Teach For China Fellow in rural Yunnan. He holds a BA from Duke University, where he studied International

Comparative Studies and Political Science, and an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Shweta Nawani brings together years of experience in learning and training, business and technology to design and deliver human-centred learning experiences for UN personnel. She works in the Talent Development Unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Copenhagen and has previously worked at the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) in Bonn. In her role in talent development, she specializes in designing and delivering transformative talent development initiatives and supporting strategic processes around people development and culture. Shweta is currently on a special

assignment with the Directorate of the Office of Human Resources in New York where she is serving as the People for 2030 Coordination Officer.



Mr. Yannis Derbali (he/him), a Belgian-Tunisian national is a programme manager with over ten years of experience in international development & environmental affairs with a particular emphasis on sustainable development. He currently works at the New York Office of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on Inter-Agency Affairs supporting among others the UN Environment Management Group and Sustainable UN Facility.

From 2021 to 2023, Yannis served as the Head of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Office of the Belgian Federal Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal Ms. Zakia Khattabi spearheading the Belgian Federal SDG-policies. Prior roles at the UNEP include managing the Green Customs Initiative, the development of the SDG-indicator 17.14.1 on Policy Coherence for sustainable development as well as supporting the coordination of the Environmental Governance Subprogramme. Before joining UNEP, Yannis has gained experience managing projects and serving as a communication officer for NGOs and the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel).

Yannis holds a master's in international politics and a Complementary Master in International Public Law. He is fluent in English, French, and Dutch.



Marcia M. Brewster is currently President of the United Nations Association (UNA-USA), Westchester (NY) chapter and had held that position earlier from 2011-2018. She has also served on the UNA-USA National Council since 2018. She worked for the United Nations for over 30 years, both in New York and at the regional UN office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, Thailand. She devoted most of her career to United Nations programs related to water and sanitation, sustainable development and gender issues. Until 2006 she was Senior Officer for water resources in the Sustainable Development Division at United Nations headquarters in New York. She served as Manager of the UN's Interagency Task Force on

Gender and Water and is deeply concerned about women's empowerment and gender equality. She was also Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Natural Resources Forum for 11 years, and has a number of published research studies and policy papers for the UN and other organizations. She has made frequent public speaking presentations on topics including water and sanitation, gender issues and international careers. Marcia serves on a number of executive and advisory boards, including the Advisory Board to the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Mercy University, the Water Discovery Center in Upstate NY and the Town of Greenburgh Water Advisory Board. She has an MSc from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and spent 14 years living and working in Asia. She lives in Hastings on Hudson and has twin sons.



Grace Gott is currently a Public Information intern in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and is a UNA-USA fellow. She graduated from Indiana University with a master's and a bachelor's in International studies, with a minor in Southeast Asian Studies and a concentration in human rights and international law. Grace's previous experiences include internships with an anti-human trafficking organization, a refugee organization, a think

tank, the US Embassy in Bangkok, and the Virtual Student Federal Service with Indian Health Services.



Haiqi Wan from China is a SDG Activist focusing on Gender Equality, Climate Change, and Humanitarian with a Master's degree in UN Foreign Affairs. With a wealth of experience spanning four different UN agencies, including UNESCAP, UN DGC, WFP, and UNDP, Haiqi has served as an intern and volunteer across diverse sectors. Haiqi has helped over 40 students to secure coveted UN internship offers globally. Currently, Haiqi serves as a UN Information Consultant on social media, marking top personal account on LinkedIn and the second-largest personal account on Xiaohongshu, with a primary focus on promoting UN&IGO initiatives and

opportunities."



Lushana Akhtar has been blessed with an international life. Born in the U.A.E, to Bangladeshi parents, she has had the privilege of also living in Bangladesh, Iraq and Thailand, with the bulk of her time in what she considers her hometown, New York City, USA. Lushana's career has included a range of experiences, including working as an International Research Analyst, member of the board of a nonprofit organization and the last seven years with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations' sexual and

reproductive health agency. Lushana works on the Talent Acquisition Team within the Division for Human Resources at UNFPA, and has had the pleasure of working in many facets of Human Resources, from the Leadership Pool, Long Service Awards, Surge (emergency deployments), Young Professional Programmes (i.e. Junior Professional Officer Programme, Internship Programme), Government Secondments, as well as on the Partnerships Portfolio.

Come chat with Lushana on how you can help UNFPA in its mission to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled!!



Emmanuelle Wiley has been with the United Nations' (UN) International Organization for Migration (IOM) since 2018, initially supporting the Humanitarian, Peace, and Security team at the New York City office to the UN. She then joined IOM Bangladesh's Programme Support Unit (PSU) in Cox's Bazar, providing donor liaison assistance for the Rohingya refugee response. In 2020, she transferred to IOM Iraq, working as a Project Development and Reporting Officer for the Transition and Recovery Division (TRD). She now currently supports IOM's Afghanistan mission in post-conflict recovery and

transition fundraising and project development.

Emmanuelle has a dual bachelors in Spanish and Identity Studies with a focus in Gender and Migration from New York University (NYU). She also holds a masters in Globalization and Migration from Columbia University. Before joining IOM, Emmanuelle worked in academia, contributing to research for publication under the subject-matters of global finance, urbanization, and forced displacement, among others.



Mawda Boulad is a young leader with a burning desire to drive positive change. She channels her passion into action, relentlessly pursuing innovative solutions to global challenges with a background in nursing and psychology. Also, in educational, gendered, and environmental advocacy, she leverages her diverse skills and experiences to make a meaningful impact. Through leadership, collaboration, and unwavering determination, Mawda strives to leave a lasting legacy of empowerment and transformation.



Stephanie's diplomatic resume has over 10 years of experience working for inter-governmental, bilateral and non-governmental partners across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia delivering a range of projects with budgets ranging from EUR 10k to EUR 56m having been part of a Nobel Prize winning UN organisation. Stephanie's diplomatic resume has over 10 years of experience working for inter-governmental, bilateral and non-governmental partners across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia delivering a range of projects with budgets ranging from EUR 10k to EUR 56m having been part of a Nobel Prize winning UN organisation. She has worked for a specialised UN organisation in the Headquarters as well as the former Director General of the IAEA and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Stephanie has travelled around the globe, having met senior UN officials such as Kofi Annan and statesman, presidents and government officials from Latin America, Africa to Asia. Having seen first hand the great work the UN does and the opportunity it presents as a career for those wanting to make a difference, her goal is to help as many people as possible to experience what it feels like to be part of the UNITED NATIONS family!



Chandra Pauline Daniel PhD., Dr.P.H., is a Public Health professional, a Research Scientist with a cutting-edge international experience in the field of public health, stemming from India, Africa, Switzerland and the United States of America. She has over a decade of experience in the field of Public Health and is thrilled to serve as a representative of the United Nations Association-USA and the UN's SDG#17 (2023-2024 cohort). She has served in this capacity actively implementing the goals of the United Nations, advocating and enhancing partnerships via the UNA-USA platform. Her primary mission is to leverage partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals through her innovative public-health solutions which engage task forces that bridge professionals in the field of

Public Health, Technology, Law Enforcement and National Security. She is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award.



Cheryl Haines A Canadian national, her career has covered strategic communication, content design, speechwriting, publication management, and media engagement. She has a keen interest in synthesizing complex policy, analytical and research data into communication materials that resonate with a wider range of audiences. Cheryl currently works for UNDP's SDG Integration Team. Previously she worked at UNOPS and the UN Office of Counter Terrorism. Her UN career has taken her on short assignments to gather a range of content on projects and programmes, including interviewing beneficiaries and national stakeholder. This work was carried out in South Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Guinea, and the Territory of Western Sahara.

Prior to joining the UN, Cheryl worked at Global Affairs Canada's Afghanistan Task Force in Ottawa, and as a journalist in Amman, Jordan.

Cheryl holds a Master of Arts degree in Political Communications from Carleton University.