



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

**Co-organized by Division for Inclusive Social Development, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, and United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), UN DESA**

***IV Edition of United Cities for All***  
**2020 International Mayors Forum Preparatory Webinar #6:**  
**“Leaving No One Behind – Persons with Disabilities and Addressing Inequalities in our Cities and Communities”**

**Thursday 29 October 2020,**  
**9:00am (New York), 6:30pm (Delhi), 10:00pm (Republic of Korea)**

**Speakers Biography**



**Mr. Chun Kyoo Park**  
Head  
United Nations Office for  
Sustainable Development  
(UNOSD), Incheon, Republic of  
Korea

Mr. Chun Kyoo Park is the Head of UN Office for Sustainable Development as of 26 October 2020. Before that, he has served at the government for almost 30 years mainly at the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea where he joined in 1991 starting at mid-level management rising to the rank of the Vice Minister of Environment. Throughout the experience, he has built various capacities and broadened the scope of work by engaging in many different areas of sustainable development.

Mr. Park’s works range from air and water quality management to nature conservation, waste management, chemicals management, sewerage system, etc. Tackling climate change has been his major concern and produced lots of achievements at the ministry including setting up Korean National Mitigation Targets.

Moreover, his career stretches to the international cooperation where he worked as the first secretary of the Republic of Korea Mission to the UN in charge of works related to the UN General Assembly 2nd Committee, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. He has attended various international meetings which include CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico as the chair of the COP12 Presidency and the most recently the 4th UN Environment Assembly in 2019 in his capacity as the head of Korean delegation. He worked closely with UN organizations to support program such as the UNEP’s PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) and the first international workshop for developing country officials on MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) jointly with UNFCCC and/or EU.

He graduated from Yonsei University majoring Public Administration and holds a Master’s degree in Development Policy and Public Administration at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is co-author of three books including “Carbon Market, Are You Ready to Buy or Sell It.”



**Ms. Daniela Bas**  
Director  
Division for Inclusive Social  
Development, UN DESA

Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011.

Political scientist with a major in International Politics, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dissertation on “The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities”. She is also a certified journalist and multicultural/ life coach. Ms. Bas interest has always been people-centred in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held.

In addition to her work at the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles from 1996 until 2011 in the private sector in Italy and was, inter alia, adviser for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as well as special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini) on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.



**Mr. Victor Calise**  
Commissioner  
Mayor's Office for People with  
Disabilities, City of New York, USA

As Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Victor Calise has been an advocate for people with disabilities in both the Bloomberg and de Blasio Administrations. Responsible for ensuring that New York City is the most accessible city in the world, Calise advises the Mayor and agency partners on accessibility issues, spearheads public-private partnerships, and chairs the Accessibility Committee of the City's Building Code.

Commissioner Calise began his City service working with the Capital Projects Division of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation where he led efforts to make one of the largest and most complex parks systems in the world accessible by ensuring compliance with the construction standards, managing facilities, and developing training materials. Prior to working in New York City government, he was a disability advocate in the non-profit sector.

Calise has facilitated relationships with businesses in a myriad of sectors including technology, finance, government, and healthcare. His leadership led to the creation of the NYC: ATWORK employment initiative—the first public-private partnership that directly connects jobseekers with disabilities and businesses. The Commissioner also consistently engages with innovators in digital accessibility, communications, and autonomous vehicle development in order to ensure that accessibility remains a priority in technological advancements.

A recognized expert on disability, the Commissioner regularly consults with high-level stakeholders regarding accessibility. He is frequently invited to national and international conferences and has given numerous keynote speeches. Passionate about the human rights of people with disabilities, Commissioner Calise supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and works with international partners to ensure that people with disabilities are mainstreamed into society.

The Commissioner received a B.S. in Sports Management from St. John's University and an M.A in Urban Affairs from Queens College, CUNY. Calise—an avid athlete—competed in the 1998 Paralympic Games in Nagano, Japan as a member of the first U.S. national sled hockey team. A native New Yorker, he lives on the Upper West Side with his wife and two daughters.



**Dr. Deisi Kusztra**  
President  
World Family Organization

Dr. Deisi Kusztra is the President of the World Family Organization. Since assuming this position in 1997, she represents the Organization at the United Nations, governments and inter-governmental organizations level. She directs the work of the Organization through its regional structures and national committees, and assists governments in preparing strategic frameworks and plans of action to implement family-focused policies, programs, projects and services at national, regional and local levels, especially in health, education, housing, social promotion, family mediation, microcredit, among others.

In partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – NGO Section, she is implementing the Informal Regional Network in Latin America, preparing NGOs to establish partnerships with Governments and the Private Sector, strengthening their capacity to network and respond to the challenges of development.

She has received many national and international awards and prizes, in recognition of her dedication and her work towards the promotion of family policies throughout the world. Dr. Kusztra has worked in Africa, Europe, Middle East and North America and is now based in South America, where she networks with the world on Family Issues.



**Mr. Johny Tom Varghese**  
State Commissioner for Persons  
with Disabilities  
State of Tamil Nadu, India

Mr. Johny Tom Varghese IAS, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, was a Research Associate with the Institute of Social Sciences in New Delhi before he joined the Indian Administrative Services in the year 2014.

He worked as the Assistant Collector of District of Erode in TN and as Sub Divisional Magistrate and Sub Collector of District of Cuddalore where he was in charge of law and order, land issues, land reforms and general administration of the District,

He is holding an additional charge as the Project Director and Additional Director of the Fisheries Department to diplomatically resolve fishing disputes between Srilankan and Tamil fishermen. In this capacity, he is in charge of the deep-sea fishing scheme to launch newly developed fishing vessels for the fishermen of the Palk Bay Region.

He has been in assignments to manage disasters like the Gaja Cyclone, Covid-19 as part of the disaster management authority of TN. As State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, he deals with the welfare and rights of differently abled people.



**Mr. Murali Padmanabhan**  
Disability Inclusion Advisor  
Light for the World

Mr. Murali Padmanabhan is a development professional with 24 years of experience and exposure in the field of gender, children, disability and inclusive development. He has a Master's degree in Social Work. He is trained in gender and disability and inclusive development, human rights law, social justice and development law, inclusive project cycle management, ToT in UNCRPD (ToTAL-IDA) and Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR).

His experience in working with disabled people and other marginalized stakeholders ranges from grassroots to the international level. He promotes empowerment, equality and mainstreaming through inclusive and participatory program development, policy influence and advocacy. He is currently the Gender & Disability Inclusion Advisor for the South and Central Asian Region at the Disability Inclusion Lab of Light for the World. The Disability Inclusion Lab is a space for NGOs, disabled people organizations, governments and businesses to come together to make disability inclusion work. The initiative's main focus is on influencing key stakeholders including GOs, INGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies about the human rights of persons with disabilities through advocacy, sensitization and capacity building.



**Mr. Amson Sibanda**  
Chief, National Strategies and  
Capacity Building Branch, Division  
for Sustainable Development  
Goals, UN Department of Economic  
and Social Affairs, New York, USA

Mr. Amson Sibanda is Chief of NSCBB for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA. He has over 15 years of progressively responsible experience in a broad range of sustainable development issues at the global, regional and national levels, including the various intergovernmental processes that underpin this work. Mr. Sibanda holds a Doctorate and an M.A. in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania, an MSc in Population Studies and B.A. in Geography (Honors) from the University of Zimbabwe