





## High Level Dialogue Panellists

<b>Event title</b>	<b>Leaving no one behind - investing in local action and empowering those most at risk</b>
<b>Date and Time</b>	Thursday 16 May, 14:30 - 16:00
	<p><b>Ms. Alexandra Ocles, National Secretary of Risk Management, Ecuador</b></p> <p>Alexandra Ocles was elected to the National Congress of Ecuador for the Socialist Party in 2003, then to the Constituent Assembly in 2007 for the Ruptura 25 movement. She was made head of the People's Secretariat by Rafael Correa and held this position until January 2011. At that time, Ruptura 25 announced its departure from the government, stating that the President had exceeded the expectations of his office. In opposition to the 2011 referendum, Ocles and other members of Ruptura 25 resigned from their positions.</p> <p>In May 2017, Ocles was named National Secretary of Risk Management by President Lenín Moreno to work with his team during his four-year term.</p> <p>She studied at the Manuela Cañizares College and then obtained a degree in educational sciences at Politecnica Salesiana University and the Latin American Social Sciences Institute.</p>
	<p><b>Ms. Kerry Ann Ifill, President Caribbean Council for the Blind, former President of the Senate</b></p> <p>Ms. Kerry-Ann Fenelle Ifill is a Barbadian politician and a former President of the Barbados Senate. As a pioneer in her own right, Senator Ifill's life story is truly one of triumph over adversity. Senator Kerryann Ifill has created history in Barbados by becoming the first woman, first disabled person and the youngest person at the age of 38 to be elected to this role.</p>

A graduate of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and postgraduate student of Durham Business School, Senator Ifill began losing her sight at the age of four. She was the first blind person to complete her course of study and within three years, to honour a promise she made to herself. Senator Ifill has worked with the Women in Development Programme, Parent Education for Development in Barbados and also spent 10 years on the staff of the Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) – the non-governmental umbrella body for several organizations related to persons with disabilities.

She is currently a director of the Barbados Council for the Disabled after serving her allotted two terms as president. She is furthermore the current Chairperson of the CARICOM Advisory Panel on Disabilities, President of the National United Society of the Blind and President of the Caribbean Council for the Blind. She is also the focal person on the Treaty of Marrakesh in the English Speaking Caribbean. She is also the Alternate Synod representative and Sunday School Superintendent of the Anglican Church of the Resurrection. Ms. Ifill, in her capacity as President of the Senate, has worked assiduously to firmly establish the Barbados National Youth Parliament.



**Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC**

Elhadj As Sy began this leadership role on 1 August, 2014 and is based at the IFRC secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr Sy has extensive experience in leadership roles in the humanitarian sector, having previously served at a senior level with UNICEF, UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other agencies for more than 30 years.

Since 2018, Mr Sy has been co-chair of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board co-convened by the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group, and member of the Global Commission on Adaptation. Mr Sy has also been a member of the Roll Back Malaria Board since 2016.

Before joining the IFRC - the world's largest humanitarian network - Mr Sy was UNICEF's Director of Partnerships and Resource Development in New York. He has also served as UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and Global Emergency Coordinator for the Horn of Africa. From 2005 to 2008, Mr Sy was UNDP's Director of HIV/AIDS Practice in New York. Before that, he worked with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as its Africa Regional Director and later as Director of Operational Partnerships and Country Support in Geneva. Mr Sy has also held the position of UNAIDS Representative in New York and Director of the New York Liaison Office.

From 1988 to 1997, he served as Director of Health and Development Programmes with Environment and Development Action in the Third World in Dakar, Senegal.

Mr Sy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Human Sciences from the University of Dakar. He then pursued Master's studies in Arts and Germanistik at the University of Graz, and graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. He was also awarded a post graduate diploma in Education from the Ecole normale supérieure in Dakar. He speaks English, French and German, and is a national of Senegal.



**Mr Mohamed Béavogui, Director-General and United Nations Assistant Secretary General (ASG)**

Mr Mohamed Béavogui, an expert in Agricultural Finance, was elected as the first African General Manager of the African Risk Capacity in January 2015 during the 3rd annual Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In September 2015, he took over from interim Director-General, Dr. Richard Wilcox.



Mr Béavogui has over 25 years of international experience in development, and previous to his appointment with ARC was the Director of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

He joined IFAD in 2001 as Director of Programs for West and Central Africa and was responsible for delivering the lending and grant program, and managing a large portfolio of projects.

Prior to joining IFAD, he worked for 7 years with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in New York as a Senior Project Management Officer and subsequently as Regional Director for West and Central Africa. Earlier, he worked at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Burundi as Chief Technical Adviser and in Rome. Before this, Mr Béavogui worked in the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM) in Nigeria, and for the Government of Guinea.

He is a member of several panels working on regional and global issues related to food security and rural development, and the recipient of several honours and awards.

Mr Béavogui holds a Master's degree in Engineering from Saint Petersburg Polytechnic, a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from G.A Nasser

	<p>University, and undertook Executive Management Training at Harvard Kennedy School.</p>
	<p><b>Ms. Nella Canales, Research Fellow, Swedish Environment Institute</b></p> <p>Nella Canales is a Research Fellow at SEI. Nella’s experience as a researcher has focused on climate finance at the national and sub-national levels in developing countries. She joined SEI in June 2016.</p> <p>Her research interests include climate finance for adaptation purposes as well as adaptation policy and practice in Latin America, particularly in Andean countries.</p> <p>Prior to SEI, Nella worked for the Overseas Development Institute in London as a Research Officer on climate finance. Nella has also experience as a development practitioner through her work with CARE International in Peru as a Climate Change and Policy Advisor; and with CDM projects during her time with Peru’s National Environmental Fund (FONAM).</p> <p>Nella holds a Masters in Climate Change and Development at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and the University of Sussex.</p>
	<p><b>Ms. Veronica Pedrosa, Moderator</b></p> <p>Based at CNN's regional headquarters in Hong Kong, Veronica Pedrosa co-anchors the network's evening program "World News Asia" with Andrew Stevens throughout the week. The two live one-hour editions of "World News Asia" reports and updates the day's leading news and business stories from across the region and around the world.</p> <p>Pedrosa, who began her career in journalism in her hometown of Manila as television reporter for the national network ABS-CBN, re-joined CNN International in Asia in early 2000. She had previously worked for BBC World Television and BBC World Service Radio in London. Prior to that, she was a news anchor for CNN International at the global news network's headquarters in Atlanta.</p> <p>Pedrosa is a graduate of Cambridge University. She is married to award-winning CNN cameraman Mark Phillips and has two children.</p>