

## Webinar for the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia, on lessons learned, good practices, and Network resources to inform the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) implementation

### Biographies of Speakers

#### Sabine Machl

UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia



Dr. Sabine Machl of Austria has been appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia on 1 June 2019. Prior to this post, Sabine has worked in international organizations for more than 22 years among those over 7 years for the UN. Her latest assignment was UN Women Representative in Indonesia and Liaison to ASEAN and before that she headed UN Women in Palestine and Kyrgyzstan. From 2007-2011 Sabine was the Head of Section/Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague covering the countries of the former Soviet Union. From 2005-2007 she was posted in Kyrgyzstan as Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. She also worked for four years as the Head of the Central Asia desk in the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna. Throughout 2001 Sabine was

assigned Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Estonia and during Austria's OSCE Chairmanship in 2000, she was First Secretary in the Austrian Permanent Mission. She worked as Desk Officer for Southeastern Europe in the Political Section of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the European Parliament, in three different courts in Vienna and as a teacher in Croydon/London. Sabine holds two Master degrees (in Law and Languages) and a PhD in Law from the University of Vienna. A major amount for her PhD research was carried out in Groningen, the Netherlands. Sabine is fluent in German (mother tongue), English, Russian and French. She is married and has two sons.

#### Sanja Celebic Lukovac

Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Georgia



Ms. Sanja Celebic Lukovac has been appointed the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Georgia in July 2018. She has been with the IOM since 1 March 1998 and has acquired extensive experience in migration issues and IOM's programmes. From 2011 to 2018, Mrs. Celebic Lukovac served in IOM Mission in Iraq as Head, Programme Development and Support Unit/Senior Programme Development and Donors Liason Officer, working on a range of humanitarian crisis, population displacement and migration management issues in the context of the complex protracted displacement and migration crisis in Iraq and Middle East. Prior to that, she worked in the

Regional Liaison and Co-ordination Office to the European Union as Liaison and Project Development Officer covering Northern Africa and Middle East, Western Balkans, and Turkey. Ms. Celebic Lukovac holds

a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of Sarajevo, as well as a Master's Degree in European Integration and Development from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and a Master's Degree in Advanced Studies of Humanitarian Operations and Supply Chain Management from Università della Svizzera Italiana. She speaks Croatian/Bosnian/Serbian, as well as English and French.

### **George Jashi**

Executive Secretary of the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia



Mr. George Jashi holds MA in Oriental History, International Relations and Foreign Policy. After the graduation from the university in 1997 he was hired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and served there for five years on different positions, beginning as the Attaché and ending as a Counselor. While in diplomatic service, he was a member of the task forces responsible for Georgia's accession to the "European Cultural Convention" (1997) and later the Council of Europe (1999). In 2001 he moved on to the Council of

Europe as the deputy director of its Office in Georgia and the director from 2004. The main task of the Office was to support the country in honoring its statutory obligations and specific commitments as a Council of Europe member state. From 2012 he works at the Public Services Development Agency under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, as an Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the State Commission on Migration Issues. As a member of inter-ministerial task-force the Commission played an important role in the successful fulfillment of different reforms within and beyond the EU-Georgia Visa-Liberalization Action Plan (2013-2015) resulting in establishment of the visa-free movement (2017) of Georgian citizens in EU/Schengen area and continuation of migration management related reforms.

### **Susanne Melde**

Senior Programme Coordinator at the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Dr. Susanne Melde is a Senior Programme Coordinator at the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Berlin, Germany. Her main areas of work are knowledge management of understanding migration data and migration and the environment. Ms. Melde has more than 13 years of experience in working on migration data analysis and governance at IOM. She currently coordinates the Global Migration Data Portal of GMDAC which aims to provide a one-stop-shop to

better understanding of international migration data. Furthermore, she chairs the Core Working Group developing the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub of the UN Network on Migration, known as the Migration Network Hub.

### **Azrah Karim Rajput**

Policy and Liaison Officer for the UN Network on Migration Secretariat



Ms. Azrah Karim Rajput joined the Network Secretariat in 2019 as it was established. She acts as focal point for the cluster on support to the implementation of specific GCM mandates. This includes the coordination of the network's support to the review process, both the regional review and the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). Prior to joining the Network secretariat, Ms. Karim Rajput worked for the IOM New York Office as part of the team that supported the negotiations of the Global Compact for Migration. Ms. Karim Rajput worked for IOM in its headquarters in Geneva and later in New Delhi, India specializing in labor migration and ethical recruitment of migrant workers. She also worked for the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she developed and managed EU funded migration management projects. Ms. Karim Rajput holds a master's degree in social and Cultural Anthropology from the Catholic University of Leuven.

### **Kristof Tamas**

Senior Adviser, Ministry of Justice of Sweden



Mr. Kristof Tamas is Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Justice, Sweden. He is in charge of the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Sweden, and also represents Sweden within the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). He also works on the links between migration, climate change and the environment. During 2014-2020 he was the Director and head of secretariat of DELMI, the Migration Studies Delegation, based in Stockholm. DELMI is a government-funded, but independent committee producing research on migration policy to bridge the gap between policy makers, academic experts, and public debate. Kristof Tamas was previously Senior Adviser in the secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a Seconded National Expert at the EU Commission, and a Special Adviser and later Deputy Director at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. He has also worked for the Political Science Department of Stockholm University and as a Senior Research Consultant for the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm and as a research consultant for *inter alia* IOM, the European Commission, ICMPD, IGC, the World Bank, OECD and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). He holds an MA in European Studies from the University of Sussex and his research interests include international relations, global and regional governance, and the migration and development nexus.

## **Olga Poalelungi**

Director of Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior



Since September 2012, Ms. Olga Poalelungi has been the director of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior. From 2008 to 2009 she was the coordinator of programs for population and development within the UN Moldova. From 2003 to 2006, she was the deputy director and director of the National Migration Bureau. She previously held other positions in the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Court, the Presidency and the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family. Ms. Olga Poalelungi is a lawyer by profession and a member of the Moldovan Bar Union. She had received qualifications in the USA and Malta. She worked as a lawyer at the Institute for European Integration and Political Science of the Academy of

Sciences. She is a researcher on demography, migration and human resource management in the processes of globalization.

## **Philippe Grandet**

Senior for Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund Manager

Mr. Philippe Grandet has been involved in the Migration MPTF since the beginning, leading the design phase and implementation. His area of expertise has been in pooled funding, and before assuming his current role, he was a portfolio manager at the UNDP MPTF Office, which is the UN center of expertise on pooled funding mechanisms. Prior to joining the Migration Network, Mr Philippe Grandet had significant experience working for many years in inter-agency settings for UNRWA, UNFPA and UNDP, dealing with UN coordination issues both at HQ and county level.

## **Sónia Pereira**

High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal



Ms. Sónia Pereira is the High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal thus assuming the role of President of the Management Board of the High Commission for Migration (ACM, I.P.). With a degree in Economics, master in Migration Studies and a PhD in Geography, Ms. Pereira was responsible for coordinating the Assistance to the Government of Portugal on Refugee Resettlement at the country office in Portugal of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She has also collaborated with the International Labour Organization and as a researcher she has specialized in migration dynamics and policy making since 2002. Her research interests

include labour migration, socioeconomic inclusion, human trafficking and the artistic and political participation of migrants.