



CLOSING CEREMONY

May 14th, 2019/ 17:00-17:30, ROOM 2 (Projections in Rooms 3 & 4)

AGENDA

Welcome remarks (17:00-17:05)

Bernice Von Bronkhorst, Director of Climate Change, World Bank

Closing Address by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (17:05-17:10)

Ricardo Mena Mpeck, Chief, Supporting and Monitoring Sendai Framework Implementation Branch

Closing address by the United Nations Development Program (17:11-17:16)



Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary General, Crisis Bureau


Closing address by ACP (17:17-17:25)

H.E. Ambassador Leonard Emile Ognimba, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group of States

Joint-Communique and official closing of the 4th edition (17:26-17:35)

Bernice Von Bronkhorst, Director of Climate Change, World Bank

Name	BIO
<p>Bernice Van Bronkhorst, Director, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Practice Group</p> 	<p>Ms. Van Bronkhorst, a Dutch national, joined the Bank in 2005 as an Urban Specialist in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. She has since held various positions, including as Sector/Practice Manager from 2012-2016 for the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change unit in the South Asia Region and, most recently, as Practice Manager for Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management for East and Southern Africa in the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience GP. At present Director, Climate Change, she oversees the key strategic priorities and implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, working closely with the Senior Director, Climate Change Management team and staff, other Global Practices, and internal and external clients.</p>
<p>Ms. Asako Okai, ASG and Director, UNDP</p> 	<p>Ms. Asako Okai officially began her role as Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator, Director of Crisis Bureau on August 22, 2018. In this role, she leads UNDP's corporate crisis-related work and drives UNDP's vision and priorities for crisis prevention, response, and recovery.</p> <p>Ms. Okai has over 30 years of experience in the Japanese Foreign Service and in the United Nations. She possesses an extensive track record in development, humanitarian response, disaster management, and peace building work at both the strategic and operational levels. Throughout her career, she has closely engaged in the evolution of international cooperation frameworks in different capacities, including the forging of historic institutional reforms of the international cooperation apparatus in Japan, and implementing innovative financial mechanisms to support reliable humanitarian funding model as Japan's Director of Humanitarian Assistance.</p>

	<p>Ms. Okai has held several diplomatic senior positions worldwide and worked closely with the United Nations Headquarters, both in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN and as a Senior Member of the Office of the President of the 66th UN General Assembly, most recently serving as Consul-General of Japan in Vancouver, Canada. She holds a Master of Arts in History of Art, Emmanuel College, Cambridge University and a Bachelor's degree in Law, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. Born in 1966, she is married.</p>
<p>Ambassador Leonard E. Ognimba, ASG Department of Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP</p> 	<p>Amb. Léonard-Emile Ognimba is a highly experienced diplomat and expert in international political affairs. Before his appointment to the ACP, he was Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to South Africa since October 2012.</p> <p>Having launched his career at Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he joined the Organisation of the African Union (OAU) in 1984, ultimately serving as Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and Secretary of the OAU Commission on Refugees. Subsequently, he spent eight years as Director for Political Affairs at the African Union (AU) Commission.</p> <p>From 2004 to 2012, leading the AU's Political Affairs division, Amb. Ognimba also managed the AU programme on governance, democracy and elections and coordinated the AU observation mission programme. Over the course of his career, he has visited and worked in a large number of countries throughout the African continent, dealing with sensitive issues related to conflict situations, international legal disputes, and human rights. He served as a member of the special team set up by the OAU Secretary General to assist him in the transition of the OAU to the African Union.</p> <p>Amb. Ognimba holds a Master's degree (LLM) in International Public Law from Kiev State University (Ukraine, USSR) as well as qualifications in conflict resolution and language interpretation. He speaks fluent French, English, and Russian, and has a good knowledge of Latin and Italian.</p> <p>Amb. Ognimba began his term as the Assistant Secretary General in charge of Political Affairs and Human Development in November 2015.</p>

Ricardo Mena
**Chief of Branch, Supporting
and Monitoring of Sendai
Framework Implementation
UN Office for Disaster Risk
Reduction**



Ricardo MENA has served in the United Nations system since 1993, occupying positions in the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UNDHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Department of Management and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Since 2017, he is the UNDRR Chief of Branch in charge of Supporting and Monitoring the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Prior to his current position in Geneva, Mr. Mena was the Head of the UNDRR Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean based in Panama.

Mr. Mena has ample experience in all the facets of disaster risk reduction and its links with sustainable development, climate change and humanitarian crisis. He led 16 UN disaster relief missions, conceptualized and promoted the establishment of OCHA's Disaster Preparedness Unit, coordinated the implementation of national disaster mitigation projects in various countries and led the formulation of a preparatory assistance for the development of a disaster mitigation strategy for Latin America.

He led the establishment of the Business Continuity Management Unit at the UN Headquarters and oversaw the implementation of the corporate Pandemic Preparedness Plan in New York and offices away from Headquarters.

Prior to his engagement with the United Nations, Mr. Mena held managerial positions in the private sector in Ecuador and worked with the organization Partners of the Americas as Deputy Director of an Emergency Preparedness Program for Ecuador and neighbouring countries.

Mr. Mena holds a Masters Degree in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom.