

**United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative  
for business & human rights**  
Leadership Group Biographies

**Kofi Annan** of Ghana, the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, served from 1997 to 2006 and was the first to emerge from the ranks of United Nations staff.

One of Mr. Annan's main priorities as Secretary-General was a comprehensive programme of reform aimed at revitalizing the United Nations and making the international system more effective. He was a constant advocate for human rights, the rule of law, the Millennium Development Goals and Africa, and sought to bring the Organization closer to the global public by forging ties with civil society, the private sector and other partners.

At Mr. Annan's initiative, UN peacekeeping was strengthened in ways that enabled the United Nations to cope with a rapid rise in the number of operations and personnel. It was also at Mr. Annan's urging that, in 2005, Member States established two new intergovernmental bodies: the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council. Mr. Annan likewise played a central role in the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the adoption of the UN's first-ever counter-terrorism strategy, and the acceptance by Member States of the "responsibility to protect" people from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. His "Global Compact" initiative, launched in 1999, has become the world's largest effort to promote corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Annan undertook wide-ranging diplomatic initiatives. In 1998, he helped to ease the transition to civilian rule in Nigeria. Also that year, he visited Iraq in an effort to resolve an impasse between that country and the Security Council over compliance with resolutions involving weapons inspections and other matters -- an effort that helped to avoid an outbreak of hostilities, which was imminent at that time. In 1999, he was deeply involved in the process by which Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia . He was responsible for certifying Israel 's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000, and in 2006, his efforts contributed to securing a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah. Also in 2006, he mediated a settlement of the dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula through implementation of the judgement of the International Court of Justice. His efforts to strengthen the Organization's management, coherence and accountability involved major investments in training and technology, the introduction of a new whistleblower policy and financial disclosure requirements, and steps aimed at improving coordination at the country level.

Mr. Annan joined the UN system in 1962 as an administrative and budget officer with the World Health Organization in Geneva. He later served with the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa , the UN Emergency Force (UNEF II) in Ismailia , the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva , and in various senior posts in New York dealing with human resources, budget, finance and staff security. Immediately before becoming Secretary-General, he was Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping. Mr. Annan also served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the former Yugoslavia (1995-1996), and facilitated the repatriation from Iraq of more than 900 international staff and other non-Iraqi nationals (1990).

Mr. Annan studied at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, and completed his undergraduate work in economics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1961. In 1961-1962, he undertook graduate studies at the Institute of International Affairs in Geneva, and in 1972 earned a Master of Science degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

Mr. Annan was awarded the 2001 Nobel Prize for Peace, jointly with the Organization. He has also received numerous honorary degrees and many other national and international prizes, medals and honours.

Mr. Annan was born in Kumasi, Ghana, on 8 April 1938, and is fluent in English, French and several African languages. He and his wife, Nane, between them have three children.

**Souhayr Belhassen** is President of the Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH).

As a journalist and writer, Souhayr Belhassen has always wished to "give a voice to the voiceless", whether via her professional activities or in her commitment to human rights. A former political science student (in Tunis and then Paris) and a correspondent for Reuters and Jeune Afrique, in 1978 she was the first to highlight the existence of a strong Islamist component in Tunisian society, in the columns of the Jeune Afrique weekly. But her great achievement was her leadership of the campaign by the Ligue Tunisienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH) to save 18 young Tunisians from the gallows after they had been found guilty of taking part in the bread riots of 28 January 1984.

With Sophie Bessis, she is co-author of *Bourguiba*, a benchmark biography of the former Tunisian premier. Sales of her work were banned in Tunisia while Bourguiba was in power. Her next book, *Femmes du Maghreb* (also co-written with Sophie Bessis), describes the challenge of women's issues in the countries of the region, including her own.

In 1993, Souhayr Belhassen issued a petition in support of Algerian women, in which she denounced the Tunisian regime's culpable silence with regard to its neighbour's situation, and the alibi that the Tunisians' relatively privileged situation prevented them from taking action. Following this petition, and despite the fact that it had been signed by only around 100 people, she was expelled from Tunisia; her exile was to last five years.

Back in Tunis, she founded the weekly cultural magazine 7sur7, which proved to have a short life. In 1998, after Souhayr Belhassen reported on a programme by the French public TV channel, France 2, that had displeased the Tunisian authorities, the latter took steps to block the external financing of 7sur7, which then went bankrupt.

In the course of her work as an activist, Souhayr has on several occasions been attacked by plain-clothes police officers and, like many Tunisian human rights defenders, she has been subject to constant surveillance (phone-tapping, shadowing, interception of mail, etc). At the

age of 65, this indefatigable defender of fundamental rights in her country has also committed herself on many other fronts internationally, starting with women's rights. In this arena, she co-ordinates the FIDH's women's rights action group.

Souhayr Belhassen has taken an increasingly active role in the Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), the oldest human rights organisation in the Arab world. The organisation has to cope with constant intimidation by the authorities (legal harassment, beatings, threats, etc). She became the organisation's vice president in November 2000, then joined the FIDH's international office at the Quito congress in 2004. She became president of the FIDH in April 2007, at the Lisbon congress. She then decided to centre her mandate around two major themes: women's rights and international migration. During her mandate, Souhayr Belhassen has carried out many missions to support human rights defenders (Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, etc).

Belhassen resides in Tunis and Paris; speaks French and Arabic; and is Doctor *Honoris Causa* of the Université Catholique de Louvain (2008).

**John Browne** was born in 1948, he joined BP in 1966 and in 1984 he became Group Treasurer and Chief Executive of BP Finance International.

In 1989, he became Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BP Exploration based in London. In September 1991, he joined the Board of The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. as a Managing Director. He was appointed Group Chief Executive on June 10, 1995. Following the merger of BP and Amoco, he became Group Chief Executive of the combined group from December 31, 1998 to 1 May 2007.

He is Managing Director and Managing Partner (Europe) of Riverstone Holdings LLC. He is President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was appointed a Trustee of the Tate Gallery on 1 August 2007. He was Chairman of the Advisory Board of Apax Partners LLC from 2006 - 2007. He was a non-executive director of Goldman Sachs from 1999 to 2007, a non-executive director of Intel Corporation from 1997 – 2006, a Trustee of The British Museum from 1995-2005, a member of the Supervisory Board of DaimlerChrysler AG from 1998 – 2001 and a non-executive director of SmithKline Beecham from 1996-1999.

He is a graduate of Cambridge University (M.A) and Stanford University (M.S Business). He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science and holds numerous fellowships and honorary degrees. He was awarded the Prince Philip Medal of the Royal Academy of Engineering (1999), the Gold Medal of the Institute of Management (2001) and the Ernest Arbuckle Award, Stanford University (2001)

He was voted Most Admired CEO by Management Today from 1999 – 2002. He was knighted in 1998 and named a life peer, The Lord Browne of Madingley, in 2001.

**Maria Livanos Cattai** is a member of the Board of Directors of Petroplus Holdings AG, Switzerland. She was Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce from

1996 to 2005. She has championed the role of world business in the global economy. She has been instrumental in establishing a global partnership between business and the United Nations, leading to greater business input into UN economic activities. Mrs Cattai worked with the World Economic Forum in Geneva from 1977 to 1996, where she became Managing Director, responsible for the celebrated Annual Meeting in Davos, building the public awareness it enjoys today.

She holds Executive Board, Board and Advisory Board memberships on many organizations and institutions, including the International Crisis Group (Brussels), EastWest Institute (New York), the Institute of International Education (New York), the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), the International Youth Foundation (Baltimore), the Elliott School of International Affairs (George Washington University, Washington DC), the Schulich School of Business (York University, Toronto), the ICT4Peace Foundation (Switzerland).

Cattai, of Greek origin and Swiss nationality, was educated in the United States. She graduated with honours from Harvard University and holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from York University, Toronto.

**Stuart E. Eizenstat** heads Covington & Burling LLP's international practice. His work at Covington focuses on resolving international trade problems and business disputes with the US and foreign governments, and international business transactions and regulations on behalf of US companies and others around the world.

During a decade and a half of public service in three US administrations, Ambassador Eizenstat has held a number of key senior positions, including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981); U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration (1993-2001).

During the Clinton Administration, he had a prominent role in the development of key international initiatives, including the negotiations of the Transatlantic Agenda with the European Union (establishing what remains of the framework for the US relationship with the EU); the development of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) among European and US CEOs; the negotiation of agreements with the European Union regarding the Helms-Burton Act and the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act; the negotiation of the Japan Port Agreement with the Japanese government; and the negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, where he led the US delegation.

Much of the interest in providing belated justice for victims of the Holocaust and other victims of Nazi tyranny during World War II was the result of his leadership of the Clinton Administration as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era Issues. He successfully negotiated major agreements with the Swiss, Germans, Austrian and French, and other European countries, covering restitution of property, payment for slave and forced laborers, recovery of looted art, bank accounts, and payment of insurance policies. His book on these events, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II*, has been favorably received in

publications like the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Business Week, and Publisher's Weekly. It has been translated into German, French, Czech and Hebrew.

Ambassador Eizenstat has received seven honorary doctorate degrees from universities and academic institutions. He has been awarded high civilian awards from the governments of France (Legion of Honor), Germany, Austria, and Belgium, as well as from Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers. In 2007, he was named "The Leading Lawyer in International Trade" in Washington, DC by Legal Times. His articles appear in The New York Times, Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Foreign Policy magazine, and Foreign Affairs magazine, on a variety of international and domestic topics. Ambassador Eizenstat grew up and was educated in the public schools of Atlanta. He is a Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and of Harvard Law School. He is married to Frances Eizenstat and has two sons and five grandchildren.

**Luis Gallegos** was born in Quito, Ecuador on December 13, 1946. He obtained a Law Degree and also a Juris Doctor Degree at the Central University of Ecuador in 1975. In 1983, as a Humphrey Fellow Scholar, he earned a Master of Arts Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy-Harvard University.

He is married to Fabiola Jaramillo and has two children: Maria Cristina and Jorge Luis.

His career as a Government diplomat began in 1966 when he joined the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has been Director of the Planning Department, Sovereignty Department, Technical Cooperation and External Debt Department, Public Information and Press, Eastern Europe, Modernization and International Projects, National Coordinator of Summits, Undersecretary for Political Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in several occasions.

Among other foreign service posts he has been Third Secretary at the Embassy of Ecuador in Madrid, Spain; Consul General of Ecuador in Chicago; Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OAS in Washington; Counselor at the Embassy of Ecuador in Washington; Minister, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Ecuador in Bulgaria; Ambassador of Ecuador in El Salvador; Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva; Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York; Ambassador of Ecuador to Australia and he is the current Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States.

He has been Vice-president of the Commission of Human Rights, Geneva 1998; Vice-president of the Assembly of the member States of WIPO, Geneva 1997-99; Representative of GRULAC to the Diplomatic Committee; President of the II Main Commission of the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a New Act Of Adjustment of Netherlands, WIPO, Geneva 1999; Vice-president of the Programmatic Forum of the IDNDR, Geneva 1999; Vice-President of the Meeting of G-77, Morocco, 1999. He has also been Vice president of the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly; Facilitator for the

“Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, 2002; Facilitator for the “Strengthening of the United Nations”, 2002; Vice-president of the Executive Board of UNICEF, 2003; and Vice-president of the Open-Ended Working Group on Security Council Reform, 2004. Twice he has been President of the Political Committee of the Non Aligned Movement. He was the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. He is, in a personal capacity, an expert member of the UN Committee against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman Treatments.

Doctor Gallegos has been a professor at the School of International Relations of the Central University of Quito, at the Military Academies of the Army and Air Force, and has given numerous conferences in Ecuador and abroad.

Among the decorations that he has been honored with are: Bulgaria, 1989; France, 1990, Brazil, 1991; El Salvador, 1997; Guatemala, 1999; Spain, 2001; Guatemala, 2002; Brazil, 2002; Peru, 2002; He has received the “National Order of Merit” of Ecuador in 2002, and the “Honorato Vasquez Order” in 2007.

The Congress of Ecuador has honored him twice, in 1999 for his work in Human Rights and for his leadership in the promotion and protection of Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He has also received Proclamations from the City Council of New York, the State Senate of New York and the House of Representatives of New York.

He is a recipient of the “Justice for All Disabilities Rights Award”, the “Burton Blatt Leadership Award”, the “Christian Blind Mission Award”, and the “Access Living Award”.

He is at present, Chairman of the Global UN Partnership for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies, President of the International Rehabilitation Foundation, and Honorary Chairman of the Global Universal Design Commission.

**Hina Jilani** was born in Lahore, Pakistan. She is a lawyer of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, experienced in Constitutional and human rights litigation. Many of the cases she has conducted are landmarks in setting the standard for human rights in Pakistan, especially on the rights of women. Other areas of experience include international human rights law, in which she has undertaken or collaborated on several international initiatives.

She has experience working with non-government and inter-governmental agencies on development of international human rights laws and standards, having participated in formal and informal Expert Group meetings of the UN Human Rights Bodies. She has represented UN Agencies like UNICEF and UNIFEM at regional and international meetings and conferences as an expert in specific fields of human rights. She participated in the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993; represented international and national human rights and women’s rights non-governmental organisations at the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995; and worked with the NGO Coalition for the establishment of an International Criminal Court. In 1989 she was a visiting Scholar for international human rights law at Columbia University, New York, at the invitation of the University Centre for Human Rights.

She founded the first women's law firm and legal aid center AGHS Legal Aid Cell in Pakistan in 1980; is a founding Member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Women's Action Forum, Asia Pacific Forum for Women Law and Development and the International Council for Human Rights Policy, amongst other national, regional and international organizations.

She served as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, 2000 – 2008; Member of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, appointed by the United Nations Security Council, 2004; and Member of the Eminent Jurists Panel on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism, appointed by the International Commission of Jurists, 2006. She serves on the Boards of several national and international NGOs, including as Chair of the International Council for Human Rights Policy, Geneva.

She has written extensively on human rights, democracy and women and children's rights. Publications include 'Human Rights and Democratic Development in Pakistan' 1998, and 'Haddood Laws: A Divine Sanction?' 1988. She has received honors and awards from the

American Bar Association, Section of Litigation Award, 1992; Special Rule of Law Citation, The Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University, USA, 1999; Ginetta Sagan Award by Amnesty International, USA, 2000; and the Millennium Peace Prize for Women, 2001.

**Kishore Mahbubani** is the Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) of the National University of Singapore. He is also a Faculty Associate for the LKYSPP's Centre on Asia and Globalisation. Prof Mahbubani serves on Boards and Councils of the International Institute for Strategic Studies Council, the Asia Society's International Council, the Yale President's Council on International Activities, and the Pacific Basin Institute.

With the Singapore Foreign Service from 1971 to 2004, he had postings in Cambodia, Malaysia, Washington DC and New York, where he served two stints as Singapore's Ambassador to the UN and as President of the UN Security Council in January 2001 and May 2002. He was Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Ministry from 1993 to 1998.

He is the author of "Can Asians Think?", "Beyond The Age Of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World", and "The New Asian Hemisphere: the irresistible shift of global power to the East". He graduated with a First Class honours degree in Philosophy from the University of Singapore in 1971. From Dalhousie University, Canada, he received a Masters degree in Philosophy in 1976 and an honorary doctorate in 1995. He also served as a Fellow at the Center for International Affairs in Harvard University in 1991/92.

**Narayana Murthy** is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor of Infosys Technologies Limited, a global Information Technology (IT) consulting and software services provider, headquartered at Bangalore, India. He founded Infosys in 1981 along with six other software professionals and served as the CEO of Infosys for twenty one years before handing over the reins of the company to co-founder, Mr. Nandan M. Nilekani, in March

2002. Under his leadership, Infosys was listed on NASDAQ in 1999. He served as the Executive Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor from 2002 to 2006.

Mr. Murthy articulated, designed and implemented the Global Delivery Model which has become the foundation for the huge success in IT services outsourcing from India. He has led key corporate governance initiatives in India. He is an IT advisor to several Asian countries. Mr. Murthy serves as an independent director on the boards of several global companies including Unilever, NV, Unilever, plc and HSBC Holdings plc. He is the Chairman of Asia Business Council. He is also a member of the advisory boards and councils of several educational institutions including Wharton, Cornell, INSEAD, Stanford, Tokyo University, SMU - Singapore, IITB -Bangalore and ESSEC, Paris.

Mr. Murthy is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. The Economist ranked him 8th in the list of the fifteen most-admired global leaders in 2005. He was ranked 28th among the world's most-respected business leaders by the Financial Times in 2005. In 2004, The TIME magazine identified him as one of the ten global leaders who are helping shape the future of technology. In 2006, the TIME magazine voted him as one of the Asian heroes who have brought about revolutionary changes in Asia in the last 60 years. He was featured in BusinessWeek's "The Stars of Asia" for three consecutive years – 1998, 1999 and 2000. He was voted the "World Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst and Young in 2003. He was voted India's most powerful CEO for three consecutive years – 2004, 2005 and 2006 – by Economic Times. He was chosen as the "Business Process Innovator" by The Economist in 2007. He received the Ernst Weber Engineering Leadership medal from The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in 2007 for his pioneering role in the globalization of IT services. He was awarded "Padma Vibhushan", the second highest civilian award by the Government of India in 2008. The Government of France conferred on him the Officer of the Legion of Honor in 2008.

He obtained B. E. (Electrical) from the University of Mysore in 1967 and M. Tech. (Electrical) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1969. He has been conferred honorary doctorate degree by several well-known universities in India and abroad.

**Sonia Picado** is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. She is a former member of Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica from San José and former President of the National Liberation Party. In 1999, she led the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor to study human rights situations there and presented the report to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She was the Costa Rican Ambassador to the United States from 1994 to 1998 and the Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights from 1984 to 1994. During 1988 to 1994, she also served as Judge and Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Ms. Picado represented her country on the Experts Committee for the Promotion of Human Rights in Central America and the Commission of European Communities from 1992 to 1994, after serving as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington DC from 1993 to 1994, as well as on the International Commission for the Recovery and Development of Central America from 1987 to 1989.

Ms. Picado was the first woman elected in Latin America as the Dean of the Law School, University of Costa Rica in 1980. She also taught at Salzburg, Austria, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, University of Dayton (Ohio), World University Service in Austria, Columbia University, and others.

**Cyril Ramaphosa** is Executive Chairman of Shanduka Group, a black-owned and managed investment holdings company with investments in resources, energy, financial services, beverages and property. He is Joint Non-Executive Chairman of Mondi Group and Non-Executive Chairman of MTN Group Limited and the Bidvest Group. His directorships include SABMiller plc, Macsteel Holdings and Standard Bank Group.

Mr. Ramaphosa obtained his law degree (B Proc) from the University of South Africa. After completing his articles he joined the Council of Unions of South Africa as the legal counsel. In 1982 Cyril was elected as the first General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers. In 1991 he was elected Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC). He became head of the negotiation team of the ANC in negotiating with the apartheid government. In 1994 he became a Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly, which negotiated South Africa's democratic constitution. He resigned from these positions in 1997 to move into the private sector. He remains a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC.

Cyril Ramaphosa is Vice Chairman of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC). He serves on the boards of the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) and the G3 Good Governance Group. He serves on the Coca Cola International Advisory Board and is the Honorary Consul General for Iceland in South Africa.

He is the former Chairman of the Black Economic Empowerment Commission (2000). In 2000 he was appointed, along with former President Martti Ahtisaari as an arms inspector in the IRA weapons decommissioning in Northern Ireland. He served on the United Nations Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (2004-2006).

Mr. Ramaphosa received the Olof Palme prize in 1987 in Stockholm. He has received honorary doctorates from universities in South Africa, the United States and Ireland.

**Mary Robinson** is the Executive Director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative, supported by a partnership of the Aspen Institute, State of the World Forum and the Swiss-based International Council on Human Rights Policy. Its goal is to bring the norms and standards of human rights into the globalization process and to support capacity building and good governance in developing countries.

Robinson served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002 and as President of Ireland from 1990-1997. Before her election as President in 1990, Mrs. Robinson served as Senator, holding that office for 20 years. Educated at Trinity

College, Mrs. Robinson also holds law degrees from the King's Inns in Dublin and from Harvard University.

**Guy Ryder** is the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the world's largest trade union body with a membership of 168 million workers in 155 countries, which has as its objective the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests worldwide, decent work and sustainable livelihoods for all, equality for women, and a multilateral framework that could provide collective security, peace and a world free from fear, poverty, hunger and the violation of human and trade union rights.

Guy Ryder's work is based around the ITUC's belief that our globalised world requires effective global governance. The ITUC promotes international cooperation between trade unions and undertakes global campaigning and advocacy in order to ensure that the social dimension of globalisation, including decent work and fundamental workers' rights, is at the centre of decision-making at the world's major global and regional institutions. At the ITUC, which is in the forefront of defending the right of workers to form and join their own organisations and issues the authoritative Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights, Mr. Ryder represents the interests of working people to global organisations including the United Nations and at the tripartite International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Guy Ryder was elected General Secretary of the ITUC at its founding Congress in 2006 after having served in the same capacity in the ITUC's predecessor organisation the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) since 2002. Prior to that, Mr. Ryder worked successively at the Trades Union Congress (TUC) of Great Britain and at the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees, as Director of the Geneva Office of the ICFTU and Secretary of the Workers' Group of the Governing Body of the ILO, as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities of the ILO, and as Director of the Office of the Director-General of the ILO.

Born in Liverpool (UK) in 1956, Mr Ryder undertook his studies at Cambridge University. His mother tongue is English and he is fluent in Spanish and French.

**Marjorie Yang** is Chairman of the Esquel Group. She is one of the world's most successful businesswomen, named in the FORTUNE top 50 Most Powerful Women in Business between 2000 and 2005. She started her career with the First Boston Corporation in New York before returning to Hong Kong to help her father set up Esquel. Ms Yang succeeded in transforming a small company into one of the world's leading textile and apparel manufacturers, supplying such household-name brands as Polo Ralph Lauren, Hugo Boss, Tommy Hilfiger and Abercrombie & Fitch. Hoping to set an example in Asia, Ms Yang has placed a huge emphasis on ethical business practices, social and environmental responsibility and worker welfare. Besides Esquel, she also serves on the Boards of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Swire Pacific Limited, CLP Holdings Limited and Novartis AG.

Ms Yang is a Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. She has an immense interest in conserving the country's environment and culture, especially in Xinjiang.

Ms Yang has been Chairman of the Textile & Clothing Sector Committee of the China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment (CAEFI) since 2003 and Vice Chairman of CAEFI since 2004. She is dedicated to strengthening co-operation among foreign-invested textile firms and enhancing communications with the Chinese Government.

Ms Yang is also concerned with the promotion of education, with a particular interest in the development of young managers. She is a member of the MIT Corporation, the Board of Dean's advisors of Harvard Business School and the Court of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She has been very involved with the MBA programs at Harvard, MIT, Tsinghua, Fudan and Lingnan universities and sits on the various advisory boards of these institutions. A graduate of MIT with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, she holds an MBA degree from Harvard Business School.

**Neville Isdell** (to join the panel after April 2009) is chairman of the Board of Directors of The Coca-Cola Company.

Under a leadership succession plan announced in December 2007, Muhtar Kent (then president and COO) succeeded Mr. Isdell as CEO (effective July 1, 2008), and Mr. Isdell continues to serve as chairman of the Board through April 2009. He is the 12th chairman of the Board in the history of the Company.

A native of Ireland, Mr. Isdell joined The Coca-Cola Company in 1966 with the local bottling company in Zambia. In 1972, he became general manager of Coca-Cola Bottling of Johannesburg -- the largest Coca-Cola bottler in Africa. Mr. Isdell was named region manager for Australia in 1980. In 1981, he became president of the bottling joint venture between The Coca-Cola Company and San Miguel Corporation in the Philippines, where he oversaw the turnaround and renewal of the Coca-Cola business in that key country.

Mr. Isdell moved to Germany as president of the Company's Central European Division in 1985. In 1989, he was elected senior vice president of the Company and appointed president of the Northeast Europe/Africa Group (renamed the Northeast Europe/Middle East Group in 1992) and led the Company's entry into new markets in India, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In 1995, he was named president of the Greater Europe Group.

From July 1998 to September 2000, Mr. Isdell served as chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Plc in Great Britain, where he oversaw that company's merger with Hellenic Bottling to form the world's second largest Coca-Cola bottler at the time, Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company (HBC). He retired as vice chairman of Coca-Cola HBC in December 2001. From January 2002 to May 2004, Mr. Isdell was an international consultant to The Coca-Cola Company and headed his own investment company in Barbados.

In June 2004, Mr. Isdell was elected chairman, Board of Directors, and chief executive officer of The Coca-Cola Company.

Mr. Isdell serves as chairman of the U.S.-Russia Business Council and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF). He is a member of the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum and chairman of the Atlanta Committee for Progress. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Water Challenge and on the Board of Directors of General Motors Corporation.

Mr. Isdell received a bachelor's degree in social sciences from the University of Cape Town and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development. In 2007, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Ulster.

**John G. Ruggie** is Kirkpatrick Professor of International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Affiliated Professor in International Legal Studies at Harvard Law School. He also serves as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights.

Trained as a political scientist, Ruggie has made significant intellectual contributions to the study of international relations, focusing on the impact of globalization on global rule making. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, he has received the International Studies Association's "Distinguished Scholar" award, the American Political Science Association's Hubert Humphrey award for "outstanding public service by a political scientist," and a Guggenheim Fellowship. A recent survey published in *Foreign Policy* magazine identified him as one of the 25 most influential international relations scholars in the United States and Canada.

Apart from his academic pursuits, Ruggie has long been involved in practical policy work, initially as a consultant to various agencies of the United Nations and the United States government. From 1997-2001 he was United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning – a post created specifically for him by then Secretary-General Kofi Annan. His responsibilities included establishing and overseeing the UN Global Compact, now the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative; proposing and gaining General Assembly approval for the Millennium Development Goals; advising Annan on relations with Washington; and broadly contributing to the effort at institutional renewal for which Annan and the United Nations as a whole were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.

Ruggie has been UN Special Representative for Business and Human Rights since 2005. His mandate is to propose measures that will strengthen the human rights performance of the business sector around the world. In 2008 the UN Human Rights Council was unanimous in welcoming a policy framework he proposed for that purpose and extending the mandate for a further three years, asking him to build on and promote the framework so as to provide concrete guidance for states, businesses, and other social actors.