HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SIDE EVENT - CONCEPT NOTE

The Challenges of Data Disaggregation to Eliminate Systemic Racism and Related Discriminations in the Implementation of the SDGs and Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Organized by: The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and the American Psychological Association

Co-sponsored by: **The Missions of Costa Rica, Mexico and South Africa to the United Nations**

We are delighted to extend a cordial invitation to all representatives of Missions to the United Nations (UN), UN entities, NGOs, CSOs, the private sector and other stakeholders to register for and participate in this side event, held virtually under technical arrangements provided by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI).

July 14, 2022 at 1:00-2:30 PM EDT

SPSSI/APA HLPF Side Event Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3arVuZu

Objectives

This side event aims to:

- Share Member States' progress on the elimination of systemic racism and related discriminations in the implementation of the SDGs, especially during the recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

- Share challenges confronting Member States in their development and disaggregation of data to meet Global SDG indicator requirements.

- Identify the contributions of psychology/social science to data disaggregation and the assessment of progress in the attainment of the SDGs including racial/ethnic equity for all sectors of society.

- Present practical human rights strategies for the development of effective policies and programmes that promote equality within the SDGs for racial/ethnic and other demographic groups.

Spanish/English Interpretation Provided!

In Partnership with the following NGOs: American Psychological Association, European Health Psychology Society, International Association of Applied Psychology, Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services, Psychology Coalition of NGOs having Consultative Relationship with the UN ECOSOC, Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, World Council of Psychotherapy.

Speaker Bios

H.E. Maritza Chan

H.E. Maritza Chan is Chargé d'Áffaires, A.I. of the Mission of Costa Rica to the UN. As an expert in international peace and security matters, Ambassador Chan has spent most of her career representing Costa Rica in Washington D.C and in New York. She is a champion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and a founding member of the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency Group (ACT), as well as the Group of Friends of Mediation and the Group of Friends of Human Security.

Mr. Edgar Vielma Orozco

Edgar Vielma Orozco is Director General of Sociodemographic Statistics at Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Guadalajara (UDG) and a Master's Degree in Economics from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM). As Director General of Sociodemographic Statistics he is responsible for the Population and Housing Census, as well as for the Intercensal Survey. In addition, he is in charge of the measurement of employment, occupation and labour informality, migration, vital statistics, monetary and non-monetary income of households, as well as of the variables to measure household overlapping deprivations; among other topics related to the sociodemographic field. In the academic field, he has been a professor in the Department of Mathematics of the University of Guadalajara.

H.E. Xolisa Mabhongo

Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo joined the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in New York on May 1 2019 as Deputy Permanent Representative.

Xolisa Mabhongo has served in a number of senior diplomatic positions both in South Africa and abroad. From January 2010 to December 2013 he was South Africa's Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia. During this time he was also South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International Organisations in Vienna (IAEA, CTBTO, UNODC, UNOOSA, and UNIDO). He served as Governor for South Africa to the International Atomic Energy Agency. He was President of the IAEA's 57th General Conference in September 2013.

Ambassador Mabhongo holds a degree of Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University, New York, a Post Graduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford University in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rhodes University in South Africa.

Dr. Mai Phan

Dr. Mai Phan is an Equity Data Expert at the Toronto Police Services. As a consultant, she is passionate about data equity, social justice, and human rights. She has over 20 years of experience teaching, researching, developing and leading initiatives to address systemic barriers and promote inclusive practices and policies in public sector organizations. She is currently supporting Toronto Police Service's ground-breaking anti-racism data initiative and works collaboratively with colleagues, partners, stakeholders and communities to support an evidence-based systems approach to racial equity, human rights, and inclusion. Dr. Phan holds a doctoral degree in Social Policy, Social Research and Sociology from the University of Kent, UK.

Professor Gay McDougall

Professor Gay McDougall is Vice Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and an international human rights expert. She is an American lawyer focused on challenging inequality related to race, gender, and economic exploitation, both within the United States and internationally. She is a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham University. She has received the MacArthur "Genius" Award and the Order of O.R. Tambo Medal for her contributions to the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa. Professor McDougall holds a J.D. from the Yale Law School and a L.L.M. from the London School of Economic and Political Science.

Dr. Linda Silka

Dr. Linda Silka is SPSSI's President and is Senior Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and Professor Emerita of the School of Economics at the University of Maine. Previously, she was a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and directed the Center for Family, Work, Community and served as the Special Assistant to the UML Provost for Community Outreach and Partnerships. A social and community psychologist by training, much of her work has focused on building community-university partnerships, including at the international level. She has served as principal investigator on U.S. federal grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Education. In the area of climate change, she has worked numerous times at the state-level toward building community resilience. Dr. Silka recently co-led the Mitchell Center's Equity Assessment for the State of Maine Climate Council to evaluate how the plan for addressing climate change issues in Maine is addressing equity issues.

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Background

The proposed side event aligns well with the 2022 HLPF theme: *"Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."* This event is motivated by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's (2015) promise to fulfill human rights to equality and non-discrimination across the 17 SDGs, "leaving no one behind." Despite some advances, systemic racism and racial/ethnic discrimination continues. SPSSI's analysis of the SDG framework showed that although the introduction to the SDGs is visionary in its stated commitment to protect and fulfill human rights for all and to end racial, gender, and other forms of discrimination prohibited by international law, the targets and global indicators developed to evaluate progress on the attainment of the SDGs do not reflect an equally robust focus on this laudatory human rights commitment. Systemic racism and racial/ethnic discrimination continue as sources of oppression, marginalization, exclusion, and inequalities among people in all regions of the world. Psychological and social science findings have documented inequalities in fulfilling basic human needs such as: food, safe drinking water, sanitation, and housing; access to quality education, reliable employment, justice and security, and physical and mental health care; political participation; the impacts of climate change disasters; and experiences of police violence. COVID-19 has revealed and exacerbated many of these inequalities resulting from systemic racism.

This analysis led to a successful Side Event at the 2021 HLPF, organized by SPSSI and co-sponsored by the Mission of Costa Rica. Mission representatives stressed that changes intended to address issues of discrimination in areas such as education and governance must focus on concrete actions.

Building on the 2021 HLPF side event, this event will focus on strategies for the elimination of systemic racism and the disaggregation of data. Despite a mandate for disaggregated data within the SDGs Framework alongside a call by UN human rights experts (e.g., the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee for the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent) for action on this mandate, analysis of current global SDG indicators and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) reveals limited focus on disaggregated data regarding the prevalence and consequences of racism and related discriminations.

Psychological science is well-positioned to contribute to the global discussion and resolution of issues of systemic racism, bringing to bear its expertise in measurement, sophisticated statistical analyses of disaggregated data, and the translation of scientific knowledge into actionable and equitable social policies and programmes for sustainable development.

Panelists   **H.E. Maritza Chan**
Chargé d'Áffaires, A.I. of the Mission of Costa Rica to the UN

Mr. Edgar Vielma Orozco
Director General of Sociodemographic Statistics at Mexico's
National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

H.E. Xolisa Mabhongo
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of South Africa to the UN

Dr. Mai Phan
Social Policy Sociology and Social Research, Race Data Disaggregation Expert,
Toronto Police Services

Professor Gay McDougall
Vice Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,
International Human Rights Expert

Moderator   **Dr. Linda Silka**, President, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Senior Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and Professor Emerita of the School of Economics at the University of Maine