



07 December 2018, 08:08

## **SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

### **Seventeenth session of the Assembly of States Parties**

#### **Plenary session: Rome Statute 20 years - Addressing current and future Challenges**

**Friday, 7 December 2018, 15:00-17:00**

#### Biographies

#### **H.E. Mr. Sergio Ugalde (Costa Rica), Ambassador to the Netherlands**

Ambassador Ugalde has nearly 20 years of experience in the field of International Law and Diplomacy. He graduated as a lawyer from the University of Costa Rica and holds a Magister Juris in European and Comparative Law from the University of Oxford.

As Costa Rica's most senior international legal adviser since 2002, he has been entrusted with representing and successfully managing his country's last six cases before the International Court of Justice as counsel and advocate, and more recently, as Co-Agent. He is a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

He has served his country on over 40 occasions as Special Ambassador for legal, diplomatic and international cooperation affairs, and is the chairman of the International Law Commission at Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry. He has headed several negotiations involving issues of international law. Together with a former President of Costa Rica, Ambassador Ugalde taught about the Inter-American Human Rights System. He has been invited to lecture on three occasions at The Hague Academy of International Law summer courses program about Litigation before the International Court of Justice. He has also lectured on International Diplomacy and about the International Criminal Court. He has written several articles on international security and international law.

In 2014 Mr. Ugalde was appointed Costa Rica's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), where he served as Vice-Chair to the 20th Conference of States Parties.

He also served as Costa Rica's representative to the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC), and was appointed Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties and Coordinator of The Hague Working Group on the International Criminal Court between 2016 and 2017. He played significant roles as acting President of the fifteenth and sixteenth Assemblies of States Parties of the ICC. As acting President to the XVI Assembly of States Parties in New York, he oversaw the activation of the Crime of Aggression by the consensus of 123 States Parties.

### **H.E. Ms. Brândușa-Ioana Predescu (Romania), Ambassador to the Netherlands**

Ambassador Predescu has been working as a diplomat in the foreign service of Romania for 25 years. Before joining the Foreign Ministry, she worked in the private office of the Prime Minister as junior expert. For a certain period, in early 2000, she held a ministerial position in the government of her country, as head of the agency dealing with child protection policies.

During her diplomatic career she has served in various diplomatic capacities abroad, both in the bilateral embassies and in permanent missions to international organizations in Vienna, Strasbourg, Berlin, Munich and Istanbul. While in the Foreign Ministry, she has had different positions as head of the several departments and directorates (Human Rights and HR-related international organizations, such as OSCE, Council of Europe, UN Council for Human Rights and other UN agencies, the directorate for North America, the directorate for Western Balkans and regional organizations. She led the press and communication department acting at the same time as spokesperson of the Ministry. She has also been National Coordinator of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

She is a graduate of the University of Bucharest and of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy. She is also alumni of the Hertie School of Governance of Berlin.

### **H.E. Ms. Namira Negm, Legal Counsel, African Union**

Amb. Dr. Namira Negm, is the African Union Legal Counsel. Before her appointment, she was former Ambassador of Egypt to Rwanda and legal advisor and Counter Terrorism Expert of the Egyptian Mission to the UN in New York. She also worked as a negotiator for the UN and several other international organizations for legal instruments, including in the area of law of the sea, family law, human rights, counter-terrorism and sanctions.

Dr. Negm's publications include a book on "Transfer of Nuclear Technology under International Law, a case study of Iraq, titled "Iran and Israel" and "the Role of Egypt in the negotiations of the Crime of Aggression".

### **H.E. Ms. María Teresa Infante Caffi (Chile), Ambassador to the Netherlands**

Ambassador Infante is a lawyer who obtained postgraduate studies in Geneva in 1979. Throughout her career she held different positions, such as a Co-agent of Chile before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Since July 2014, she is the Ambassador of Chile to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Infante also served as a National Director of Frontiers and Limits Department at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1997 to 2014. Throughout her teaching career, she has been co-Director of the Master's Programme in International Law, University of Heidelberg & University of Chile. Ambassador Infante also served as a Director of the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile from 1987 to 1995. She is a member of the Institute of International Law.

### **Mr. John Dugard SC**

John Dugard SC is Emeritus Professor of Law of the Universities of Leiden and the Witwatersrand and Extraordinary Professor of Law at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. He was

Director of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge from 1995 to 1997. A South African national, he participated in the drafting of South Africa's democratic Constitution of 1996.

John Dugard was a member of the International Law Commission (1997 - 2011); UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2001 - 2008); and Judge ad hoc of the International Court of Justice (2000 - 2018). He has published several books and many articles on international law, international criminal law and the International Criminal Court. His most recent book is *Confronting Apartheid. A Personal History of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine* (2018). He is a member of the Institut de Droit International and an Honorary Member of the American Society of International Law.

**Mr. William Pace**

Mr. William R. Pace has served as the Convenor of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court since its founding in 1995. He is the Executive Director of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) and is a co-founder and steering committee member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect. He has been engaged in international justice, rule of law, environmental law, and human rights for the past 30 years. He served as the Secretary-General of the Hague Appeal for Peace, among other positions. He is the President of the Board of the Center for United Nations Reform Education and President of the Center for Development of International Law. Mr. Pace received the Cox Price Award for Human Rights at the University of Denver and the Human Rights Medal from the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights for his achievements in the establishment of the ICC. He has authored numerous articles and reports on international justice, international affairs and UN issues, multilateral treaty processes, and civil society participation in international decision-making.

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