

**AGNA STEERING
COMMITTEE
JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020**

AFRICA

MS. SOPHIE KANGE (CHAIR): UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM UGANDA

Sophie Kange is the current representative for Africa and Chair of the AGNA Steering Committee. She works with the Uganda National NGO Forum as the Coordinator of Capacity Development, managing over 600 NGOs, 35 District Networks with a membership of 3864. She is also the Board Chairperson of Social Enterprise for Women Empowerment and Director at Skills of Excellence, an organization working to empower Ugandan youth through skills and talent development. Sophie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and Management and Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Management from Makerere University. She wields great competence and expertise in Organizational Development, Research and Civic Space Monitoring, Advocacy and Campaigns, governance and membership servicing, networking and partnership development. She has supported the platform in reviewing and endorsing key policies, plans and reports; The State of Civil Society report, the Enabling Environment National Assessment report and other civic space monitoring instruments. Sophie represented AGNA in Uganda, Turkey, South Africa, and Ghana and in New York at the CSW60. Sophie is among the few Women champions the campaign to empower women in Civil Society into leadership. Her active participation has contributed to the great innovations and programming that AGNA has adopted for 2017 and beyond.



MR. SIMAO TILA: JOINT - LIGA DE ONGS EM MOCAMBIQUE MOZAMBIQUE

Simao Tila is the Executive Director of JOINT, the NGO League in Mozambique, for 11 years. He has been a personality who has earned a lot of respect and admiration for his work in strengthening Civil Society in Mozambique, in the region and internationally. From 2014 to the present he led several movements and advocacy platforms on Public Debt, Restoration of Peace in Mozambique and on Freedom of Expression. He also led several studies highlighting the study on civic space in the Organization of the Civil Society in Mozambique and gave rise to a plan of action whose main activity and the Review of the Law of Associations in Mozambique the Law 8/91 in revision process. He is a founding member of HUB Africa Member of the Executive Committee of SADC CNGO And chairman of the Board of Directors of the Social Protection Platform in Mozambique For about 18 years he has been devoting himself as a social activist, human rights advocate and a fighter to the growth, visibility and impact of civil society actions in Mozambique, the region and the African continent to ensure that world remain a better place and for civil society to remain faithful to its commitment to be legitimate, transparent and accountable values. Reason for which he led through the organization that he is now a Executive Director, the auscultation and elaboration of the Code of principles, conduct and ethics of the Civil Society Organizations in Mozambique in 2015, and which is in the process of adoption by the CSOs in Mozambique.



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ASIA

MR. GOPAL LAMSAL NGO FEDERATION OF NEPAL (NFN) NEPAL

Gopal Lamsal is the president of NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), which is the national NGOs' platform established in 1991. Mr. Lamsal has Master Degree in Rural Development and in Law (LLM). His mother organization is Integrated Community Development Capaign Nepal (ICDC-Nepal). He has served in NFN is different capacities for last fifteen years. He has proven his capacity in CSOs/NGOs leadership and management, policy advocacy for enabling environment of CSOs and development effectiveness. On behalf of NFN, he has successfully led the Millennium Development Campaign and post 2015 civil society process. He has deep knowledge about the history and initiatives MDGS and SDGs and now he is leading GCAP National Coalition and national CSOs coalition which is composed of more than 20 civil society networks, federations and alliances. Lamsal is now giving leadership to the civil society process on the 2030 sustainable development agenda. He has played very important role to form a common civil society platform in the country to work on sustainable development agenda, called CSOs Forum for Sustainable Development in Nepal (Nepal SDGs Forum). He has experience of participating many meeting and forums regarding sustainable development agenda at international, regional and national level.



MR. CHAN PHEAKDEY COOPERATION COMMITTEE FOR CAMBODIA (CCC) CAMBODIA

Pheakdey has over seven years of experience in organisational development (good governance, accountability, and transparency standards). He has served for five years as deputy board of director for local NGOs. Pheakdey has Four years of experience as United Nation Youth Advisory Panel which working with UN Country Team, over five years of experience in project management including planning, monitoring, evaluation, and budgeting, and four years of experience in training on personal development, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, leadership, and community development.

He graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Economics Informatics, and a Master Degree in Private Laws from Royal University of Laws and Economic. He has worked at CCC since 2015, with the most recent role as the Governance & Professional Practice Manager. Where his work involves leading the strategic planning and budgeting, develops strategic partnership and builds networks for GPP, generates strategic support for GPP, sets the management targets, and monitors GPP activities and budget. Moreover, he is responsible for preparing accurate and timely narrative reports for the Head of Program and GPP donors. He is a member of CCC management team, providing leadership direction and daily management to the GPP team and working closely with NGO Code Compliance Committee (NCCC) to ensure that GPP and its services are managed and delivered in quality and professional manner. He also acts as officer-in-charge to Head of Program when she is absented.



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EUROPE

MS. KIRSI MARTTINEN

SOSTE

FINLAND

Kirsi Marttinen works as a special adviser for SOSTE Finnish Federations for Social Affairs and Health, which is an umbrella organisation for over 220 social affairs and health NGOs. SOSTE works for the health and wellbeing of all people and is also a strong advocate for civil society issues in Finland.

Kirsi's core responsibilities in SOSTE include i.a. CSO funding, resourcing and autonomy issues, and international cooperation. Previously she has worked with public affairs and advocacy in SOSTE. She holds a Master's Degree in English Philology (University of Jyväskylä), and has studied Political Science as her second major. Kirsi has been active both in student and women's movement in Finland; among other positions of trust she has been the vice president of the Finnish University Students and the vice president of National Council for Gender Equality. She has also worked as a secretary general in a national-level women's association.

She is actively involved in gender equality issues and has participated several national and international events and forums, such as CSW61 in New York, CEDAW-hearing (as NGO representative) in Geneva and Tunis Forum on Gender Equality.

Throughout her career, Kirsi has developed a strong expertise in organizational development, gender equality, diversity and inclusion issues, as well as public affairs and advocacy, and has worked with these issues in local, national and international level, and has vast experience in multi-stakeholder processes.



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LATIN AMERICA THE CARIBBEAN

MR. GUILLERMO CORREA ARGENTINE NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (RACI) ARGENTINA

Since 2007, Guillermo has been the founder and Executive Director of the Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI), and from 2013 to March 2016 he is also the Executive Director of HelpArgentina. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, with specialization in International Relations and a Masters in International Relations (both from University of Buenos Aires – UBA). He was also the Director of Institutional Development of Poder Ciudadano Foundation, the Argentinean Chapter of Transparency International. Guillermo is the author of several publications such as “Problems of Democracy. What to do to fix them?” (2006) – Poder Ciudadano & Kettering Foundation; “Manual for easy access to International Cooperation – A tool for strengthening civil society organizations (CSOs)” (2008, 4th edition 2012) –Argentina Network for International Cooperation (RACI); "Inclusion of civil society to increase transparency and accountability: A program, multiple challenges" in The Power of transparency (2012). He served as a member of the Steering Committee of AGNA for the period 2014-2016, and he would like to continue with the work he begun. He was also nominated to become a part of the CIVICUS board, and if chosen, he could act as a link between the AGNA national platforms and the CIVICUS board. This would allow him to take the issues of most importance to AGNA, to the CIVICUS core.



MS. SUSANA EROSTEGUI REVILLA UNITAS BOLIVIA

Susana has a BSc in Social Communication from Universidad Nacional de Córdoba-Argentina, Postgraduate degrees in Communication for Sustainable Development from Andean University and Gender Equity and Human Rights from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. She has experience working in NGOs, international cooperation and public bodies around issues of development, human rights and strengthening civil society. She is currently Executive Director of UNITAS, whose mission is “to contribute to the organized participation of social movements and organizations in local, regional and national development processes. global, to manage and strengthen the protection and exercise of their rights and the integral improvement of living conditions.” Before becoming Executive Director of UNITAS, she worked in different NGOs, international cooperation agencies and public institutions (OHCHR, Canadian International Development Agency, CECI, Ministry of Education etc.) and has a firm commitment to promote human rights, democracy and development and the strengthening of civil society organizations. She is currently a member of the Task Team of the Political Forum on Development of the European Union (EU Policy Forum on Development) and represents UNITAS in different global, regional and national spaces such as the Articulation Bureau of Networks and Platforms of NGOs in Latin America and Caribbean, Regional Accountability Initiative, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness-CPDE, CIVICUS AGNA, FORUS, and Action for Sustainable Development.



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MENA

Areen Abualrob

**Palestinian Consultative Staff for
Developing NGOs (PCS)
Palestine**

Areen was born and raised in Palestine, she holds a B.A in Sociology from Birzit University and an Exchange M.A in Development from La-sapienza Rome. Areen has been working for local and INGO which are operating in Palestine, and has been responsible for different positions but mainly her experience evolved around Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. Currently she is working for Palestinian Consultative Staff (PCS) as a project coordinator. PCS is an independent civic and Nongovernmental assemblage, that aims to develop and empower the Palestinian community during the cadre of promoting democracy, social equity, sustainable development, and respect the law and human rights. PCS's memberships includes more than 50 Palestinian NGOs in Jenin Governorate and northern west bank governorates, that work in human ,social and development fields. Areen works closely with marginalized people specially women, and being aware of their daily struggle to meet their basic need enhanced her beliefs of the need to redouble our efforts for social justice and fight against corruption.



PACIFIC

Ngara Katuke

**The Cook Islands Civil Society
Organisation
Cook Islands**

Ngara Katuke is the current President for the Cook Islands Civil Society Organizations, this the national platform in the Cook Islands. She wears few hats in her community and church working with young youth, women's groups and uniform organization groups. She commits and dedicates her time and provides her services to her nongovernmental group. She coordinates events and programs that are required by the government sector on health, economy, education and so forth.



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