

2021HLPF Side Event on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS – 12 July 2021 @1:00-2:45pm

Bios for the Opening segment

Moderator



Mr. Neil Buhne is Regional Director of the UN Development Coordination Office covering Asia and the Pacific overseeing the UN Resident Coordinator function across the region.

Mr. Buhne served as UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria and Belarus and he was UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Director of the Geneva Liaison Office.

Opening remarks



Dr. Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica is the newly appointed **Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLS).**

Mr. Rattray is an accomplished diplomat with a distinguished career in the Jamaican foreign service. He brings to the position broad-based managerial and leadership experience of working within and across multicultural settings, with a focus on addressing the developmental challenges faced by countries in special situations, particularly in the area of development finance.

Jamaica's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Rattray also served as Co-chair of the Group of Friends of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Financing; Children and the SDGs; as well as the Group of Friends of Decent Work.



Professor Jeffrey Sachs is a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in more than 100 countries. He is the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership, and has twice been named among Time Magazine's 100 most influential world leaders. Prof. Sachs serves as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he holds the rank of University Professor, the university's highest academic rank. Jeffrey Sachs is President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network



H.E. Walton Alfonso Webson is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Dr. Webson served as Director of Perkins International, Director of Institutional Development and Coordinator of Education Programs for Africa and the Caribbean. Since 2014, Ambassador Webson has been a strong advocate for multilateral cooperation in support of Small Island Developing States and their sustainable development for which the development and adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index is an important milestone.