Ambassadors’ Biographies for November 15 Roundtable Discussion

Ambassador Joanne Adamson
Deputy Head of European Union Delegation to the UN

Ambassador Joanne Adamson, has been Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations in New York since 1 September 2016. Amb. Adamson was UK Ambassador to Mali from August 2014 until August 2016, and non-Resident Ambassador to Niger from September 2015 to August 2016. Ambassador Adamson joined the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1989. She has served in Cairo, Jerusalem, at the UK Mission to the UN in New York, Washington, and at the UK Mission to the UN in Geneva. In addition to being the UK’s Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament from 2011-2013, she was the UK’s Chief Negotiator at the UN’s Arms Trade Treaty diplomatic conferences in 2012 and 2013. Amb. Adamson worked in the Security Policy Department of the FCO from 1989-1990, in the Middle East Department from 1995-1997 and in Counter Proliferation Department from 2007-2009. Amb. Adamson has also worked with the United Nations in a number of fields and HQ roles. She took unpaid leave from the UK Government to work for the United Nations in Gaza, Kosovo, and New York from 1999 to 2002.

Ambassador Téte António
Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations

Prior to his new appointment, Amb. António was most recently the Diplomatic Adviser to the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. Between December 2002 and April 2009, he served as Angola’s Deputy Permanent Representative and Minister Counsellor at the country’s United Nations Mission in New York. In 2005, Amb. António served as adviser to the President of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

From 1999 to 2002, Amb. António was Director, Office of the Deputy Minister of External Relations, in Luanda. Prior to that, he was an observer for the African Union to United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), from 1997 to 1999, and served in his country’s embassy in Addis Ababa from 1993 to 1997. He began his diplomatic career in 1990.

Ambassador Juan Carlos Mendoza García
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

Until his appointment, Amb. García was a presidential candidate in Costa Rica, representing the Citizens Action Party in the primary elections. Previously, he served as Congressman representing the Citizens Action Party from 2010 until 2014, during which time he was President of Congress from 2011 to 2012 and opposition leader from 2010 until 2011.

Amb. García attended a number of Committees while in Congress, including, among others, the Permanent Commission of Economic Issues; Permanent Commission of International Affairs and Commerce; Commission on Electricity; and Commission to Ensure Access to Water as a Human Right. He is also the founder and leader of “Movimiento Esperanza” within the Citizens Action Party.