

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: CoNGO 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AT UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, UNITAR



On 8 June 2015, **Mr. Nikhil Seth** was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role, he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and the administration for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up. Mr. Seth's Division was also responsible for supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

Helga Konrad, Executive Director Anti-Trafficking, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM in Vienna



Helga Konrad, Executive Director Anti-Trafficking at the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM in Vienna; Head/Coordinator of the '*Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking*'—*Improving National & Transnational Coordination and Cooperation; Developing and Strengthening Networks and Partnerships* <https://thbregionalimplementationinitiative.wordpress.com/>. She has worked on the issue for more than 25 years at national and international levels in various functions – as an expert, manager, parliamentarian and executive politician. Her anti-trafficking work has been based on a holistic and comprehensive approach to this complex and multifaceted problem, addressing all forms of human trafficking and coordinating all relevant actors and stakeholders. As the first Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE (2004-2006), she established the 'Alliance against Trafficking in Persons.' From 2000 to 2004, she chaired the EU Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings for South Eastern Europe. As Austrian Federal Government Minister for Women, she hosted the 1st EU Conference on Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation in 1995. She was Head of the Austrian government delegation to the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing/China and the 1st World Congress on Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm/Sweden, 1996. In addition to cultural and foreign policy, her political focus is gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. A milestone of her time as minister was the passing of the Austrian 'Protection against Domestic Violence Act' and establishment of the first of a subsequent series of 'Violence Protection Centers' in Austria.

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Professor of International Human Rights at Vienna University



Manfred Nowak is Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Professor of International Human Rights at Vienna University and Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He previously served in various expert functions, such as UN Expert on enforced disappearances (1993-2006), UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004-2010), judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996-2003) and Vice Chairperson of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2013-2018). In 2016 he was appointed Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. He was Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights at Utrecht University (SIM, 1987-1989) and of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights at Vienna University (BIM, 1992-2019), as well as Visiting Professor at the University of Lund (2002-2003), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (2008-2009), and at Stanford University in Palo Alto (2014). He is the author of more

than 600 publications in public international law and human rights.