

The Road to UNGA
Preventing Famine and Fighting Food Insecurity
Monday 12 September 2022

A virtual roundtable organized by the Global Network Against Food Crises and
the High-Level Task Force on Famine Prevention

Panellist Biographies

Omar Castañeda Solares, Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations



Omar Castañeda Solares is Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, appointed in 2016. He is a Guatemalan Career Diplomat and worked as Expert in budgetary and financial matters in the 5th Committee of the General Assembly since 2009. He assisted the Permanent Representative of Guatemala in his capacity as Chairman of the 5th Committee and facilitated political negotiations of this Committee. He also served as Representative of Guatemala to the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations 2012-

2013 and was the expert in charge of the political situation in different African countries during the Guatemalan membership of the United Nations Security Council 2012-2013. He also was Press Officer for the Permanent Mission of Guatemala. In 2019 he was Vicechair of the Executive Board of UNICEF, representing the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean Countries. He was part of the UNITAR-IPI Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, Oslo, Norway 2016, and has a Master Postgraduate Degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.

Sara McHattie, Food Systems Information Network



Sara McHattie is the Global Coordinator at the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) since June 2022. Sara has worked for over 20 years in the humanitarian and development sector with NGOs, the European Union and the United Nations in over a dozen countries, at the field, regional and global levels. A strong believer that good data leads to better decisions, she is pleased to be presenting the findings of the Global Report on Food Crises 2022 Mid-Year Update so as to bring attention to the deterioration in acute food security globally.

Shanda Steimer, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance



Shanda Steimer is Director of the Office of Technical and Program Quality, at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

Shanda Steimer currently serves as the Director for the Office of Technical and Program Quality in the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), which leads the U.S. Government's international disaster assistance efforts. With a mandate to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the impact of disasters, BHA monitors, mitigates, and responds to global hazards and humanitarian needs. The Bureau also promotes resilience by preparing communities for disasters before they strike, and by helping people recover and move beyond crises.

Ms. Steimer is a career member of the United States Foreign Service with more than 20 years of development experience. She most recently served on the COVID-19 Task Force as the Program and Strategic Planning Pillar Lead. In October 2019, she joined the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security as the Director of the Center for Nutrition, tasked with providing Agency-wide multi-sectoral leadership and coordination for nutrition, in close collaboration and partnership with the nutrition teams in both Global Health Bureau and BHA.

She has served in Mali, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda, Washington and Zambia, managing a diverse range of USAID portfolios primarily in health, but also in education, Feed the Future, Energy, Food for Peace and the Environment. Prior to joining USAID, she worked for various international organizations and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea.

Ms. Steimer has a Master of Public Health degree in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Margot van der Velden, United Nations World Food Programme



Since September 2018, Margot van der Velden has taken up her duties as Director of Emergencies in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division in WFP, Rome.

Previously she served as WFP Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa covering 19 Countries including nearly 40 active operations with complex regional interventions (Lake Chad Basin and Central African Republic). She was the Regional Emergency Coordinator responsible for WFP Regional Emergency Operations in Ebola, C.A.R., Lake Chad Basin and Sahel/Mali while being responsible for the setup of WFP's emergency operation in North East Nigeria in 2016.

Margot served as WFP Deputy Country Director in Sudan leading strategically and operationally one of WFP's largest operations. In addition she was responsible for the humanitarian operations and access negotiations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the re-opening of the humanitarian corridors from Sudan to South Sudan and the re-entry of WFP in Northern Abyei.

In 2010, she was appointed WFP Chief of Nutrition, Mother & Child Health and HIV & AIDS in WFP's Headquarters in Rome where she spearheaded WFP's renewed vision, policies and programmes for nutrition, an overhaul in the organisation with nutrition at the forefront and as a central piece of all WFP's work.

Between 2007 and 2010, she served as Deputy Country Director in Mozambique where she led WFP's humanitarian response to floods, high food prices, droughts and helped build the National Institution for Emergency Preparedness and Response. Simultaneously she was instrumental in pioneering with ILO and UNICEF the design and implementation of the National Social Protection Policy and Programme and the National Chronic Malnutrition Policy and Action Plan, including the support for the design and advocacy for the required national legal, budgetary and institutional frameworks.

Prior to that she was working in West and Southern Africa in various countries spearheading WFP's humanitarian food and nutrition crisis operations. Together with UNICEF she led the humanitarian movement to ensure nutrition is considered a centre piece in the national governments' emergency and development agenda in the Sahel countries. She also was the one leading the design of the Cadre Harmonise, a comparative national framework for measuring acute food security throughout the CILSS countries.

A native of the Netherlands, Margot van der Velden holds a Master's Degree in Food Science from the Agriculture University in Wageningen as well as a Master's Degree in Public Health and Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Following her studies, she started her professional career with Médecins Sans Frontières in the Great Lakes and Mozambique working on humanitarian assistance for the refugees, internally displaced and returnees.