Early Childhood Peace Consortium Launch
Friday 20 September, 2013
Labouisse Hall, 3 UN Plaza – UNICEF

Full Agenda

9.00am - 10.00am Opening Session

The session will be opened by a performance from Vy Higginsen’s Teen Choir.

Chair:

Dr. Pia Rebello Britto is the Senior Advisor for Early Childhood Development at UNICEF New York headquarters. She joined UNICEF in May 2013 from Yale University.

Welcome Address:

Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta Deputy Executive Director (Programmes), joined UNICEF in June, 2011. She brings over 20 years of experience in international development programming, advocacy and research to the UN children’s agency.

Introduction to Consortium:

Dr. Rima Salah is the former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF from 2004 to 2007. She was also the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). Dr. Salah is currently an Adjunct Faculty member at Yale University’s Child Study Center.

Keynote Address:

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser is designated UN High Representative of the Alliance to Civilizations by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Al-Nasser assumed the post on March 1, 2013 from UNAOC headquarters in New York.

10.00am – 10.30am Networking Break

NOTES:
The purpose of this session is to understand the United Nations’ initiatives that focus on peace and security, with particular reference to young children and families. This session will also give attention to security in the post-2015 agenda and development approaches to violence prevention.

**Chair:**

Dr. Nicholas Alipui was appointed Director of UNICEF Programmes in 2008. He oversees the centerpiece of UNICEF’s work and is at the forefront of programme policy, guidance and management.

**Panelist:**

Dr. Amina J. Mohammed is the U.N. Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning. Ms. Mohammed was previously Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals after serving three Presidents over a period of six years.

**Panelist:**

Ms. Marta Ruedas joined Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director on 1 February 2011. Prior to this, she served as Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Lebanon.

**NOTES:**
Efforts to understand the biological processes that underlie peacebuilding and conflict resolution require an eclectic consideration of humans as biological beings and their behavior on multiple levels: intra- and inter-family, and community. This session will explore how our brain development is shaped, in part, by epigenetic modifications that vary depending on our early life environments and a discussion on the emerging scientific evidence that points to the importance of sustainable programs aimed at enhancing early child development as key elements on the path to peace.

**Chair:**

**Dr. James F. Leckman** is the Neison Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Psychology and Pediatrics at Yale University.

**Presenter:**

**Dr. Michael Meaney** is Professor of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry at McGill University and Adjunct Senior Investigator in the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences.

**Moderator:**

**Dr. C. Sue Carter**, is a Research Professor in Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Research Professor of Psychology, Northeastern University in Boston.

**NOTES:**
ACEV has been working in the fields of early childhood and parent training for 2 decades and has accumulated evidence based practice that has reached 800,000 individuals in Turkey and beyond. The session will demonstrate the scientific and theoretical underpinnings of its programmes for young children and families and how it has made sound contributions to the discourse on early childhood as a tool to promote peace and tolerance behaviours not only in children but among families and communities.

**Chair:**

Ms. Ayla Goksel is CEO of the Mother Child Education Foundation ACEV, and holds a BSc from University of Bath, and MSc from London School of Economics University.

**Presenter:**

Dr. Cigdem Kağıtçıbaşı is professor of psychology at Koc University, Istanbul. She is one of the founders of Mother-Child Education Foundation in Turkey.

**Moderator:**

Dr. Diane Sunar has taught in leading Turkish universities for most of her career; she is currently head of the psychology department at Istanbul BİLGİ University.
Sesame Workshop is the nonprofit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*, the landmark television program. The Workshop’s mission is to use the educational power of media to help children everywhere reach their highest potential. Delivered through a variety of platforms, Sesame Workshop develops research-based content – including television programs, books, games, mobile apps and community engagement initiatives. This session will focus on research and development that goes into all *Sesame Street* content and what the Workshop has learned about the role and impact of educational media in peace building.

**Chair:**

**H. Melvin Ming** is President/CEO of Sesame Workshop and leads the organization in its mission to create innovative, engaging content that maximizes the educational power of media to help children reach their highest potential.

**Panelist:**

**Dr. Charlotte Frances Cole** is the Senior Vice President of Global Education at Sesame Workshop. Dr. Cole oversees the organization’s global education strategies and content development and research.

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Kyle Pruett** Clinical Professor of Child Psychiatry and Nursing, served as Director of Medical Studies at Yale School of Medicine’s Child Study Center.

**NOTES:**
The purpose of this session is to briefly overview the approaches that address the role of young children and families as agents of change in reducing violence and promoting peace. This session will give the audience a taste of individual organizations’ priorities and initiatives.

**Chair & Moderator:**

Ms. Louise Zimanyi is the Executive Director of the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development (CG), a global consortium working to convene, mobilise, and engage global Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) actors in order to generate and disseminate knowledge on ECCD.

**Panelist:**

Dr. Siobhán Fitzpatrick is CEO of Early Years since 1989, having worked previously for the statutory sector within Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland.

**Panelist:**

Dr. Sheelagh Stewart is Director of Governance and Rule of Law, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNDP. Sheelagh joined UNDP-BCPR in March, 2012.

**3.45pm – 4.15pm Break**

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4.15pm – 5.15pm  
**Foundation’s Session**

This session will give the audience a sense of the types of issues that foundations are interested in, the knowledge and evidence they are seeking from other partners and the rationale for supporting peace promotion efforts.

**Chair:**

**Dr. Brenda Haiplik** is the Senior Education Advisor - Emergencies, at UNICEF. She holds a PhD in Curriculum, Teaching and Learning with a specialization in Comparative, International and Development Education from University of Toronto.

**Panelist:**

**Mr. Mohammed Hamid Mohammed** is a program officer at the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, MI. He manages Natural Sciences and Engineering projects.

**Panelist:**

**Ms. Lisa Jordan** is Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation since July 2009, having previously worked with the Ford Foundation for nine years.

**Panelist:**

**Marya Reed** is the Director of Operations at the Doha International Family Institute, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The Institute is undertaking and supporting research, policy and outreach in its efforts to be recognized as a global knowledge leader on issues facing the Arab family.

**NOTES:**
Closing Remarks:

Dr. Christian Salazar Volkmann is the Deputy Director, Programme Division at UNICEF, since the end of 2011. He is responsible for UNICEF’s Mid Term Strategic Plan, research and knowledge management, climate change and resilience as well as for the post-2015 debates.