



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**HLPF  
2023**  
Side Event  
Hybrid

*Image reflects the vision of creating  
sustainable cities using digital technology*



# Integration and Impact of Digital Technology in Developing Countries in the Context of the Right to Development

Join us in a highly interactive HLPF 2023 virtual side event featuring an expert roundtable discussion, a showcase of success stories, a fusion of creative ideas, and partnerships for SDGs: #9, #11, and #17.

Together, we'll discover how digital technology can be utilized as a sustainable development tool to build peaceful and sustainable cities and communities.

**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023

**Time:** 1:15 - 2:45 PM EST

**Interpretation:** English and Spanish

**Venue:** Social Hall, 4 West 43rd St., NYC

**Zoom Registration:** [bit.ly/HLPFWFWP23](https://bit.ly/HLPFWFWP23)



ORGANIZED BY:  
WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, INTERNATIONAL

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[www.wfpw.org](http://www.wfpw.org)



# HLPF 2023 SIDE EVENT

## SPEAKERS

REGISTER NOW



*Integration and Impact of Digital Technology in Developing Countries in the Context of the Right to Development*



### **Dr. Rior Santos**

He is the Regional Project Manager of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the first SDG Fund for Digital Transformation in Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and Kiribati. Prior to this position, he served as Senior UN Coordination Specialist of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Asia Pacific Regional Office, where he work in advancing Digital Transformation and Innovations in the region through stronger UN collaborations and partnerships with the government and private sector.



### **Mr. Thierno Balde**

He is the Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of Private Sector, Trade, Economy, and Industry of the Republic of Guinea, West Africa. He was the Project manager of The BoCEJ Project for 7 years which aims to reduce the unemployment rate among young graduates initiated by the Guinean government. He also has an Executive Certificate for Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School, a Master's Degree from Neoma Business School, and a Master of Engineering in AgroParisTech - Institute of Life Sciences and Industries and the Environment.



### **Mrs. Merly Barlaan**

The International Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, and Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York. She is a peace and environmental advocate, specializing in women, youth, and community development - promoting a holistic "leadership of heart" approach. She graduated with Baccalaureate in Education from the International Peace Leadership College, Rizal, Philippines. She is a Grant Writer with Certification in Philanthropy and Fundraising from New York University.



### **Dr. Frank Kaufmann**

He is the editor-in-chief of the New World Encyclopedia, founder of the Values in Knowledge Foundation, and President of Twelve Gates Foundation. He works in religion and conflict resolution (Twelve Gates Foundation), preservation of scholarly integrity and purpose (Values in Knowledge Foundation), and protection and defense of human rights and freedoms (The Settlement Project). He has worked in conflict areas including Israel, Palestine, Croatia, the Eritrea – Ethiopia border, India, Kashmir, revolutionary centers in the Philippines, Northern Sri Lanka, and elsewhere.



### **Ms. Priscilla Garces**

She is a trained Climate Reality leader, mentor, and disability advocate. She completed her education with honors, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Diplomacy and International Relations, a Minor in Latin-American Studies and Spanish from Seton Hall University, a professional Certificate of Bilingual Translation from NYU, and later a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Leadership/Development from Fordham University. She is a founding cabinet committee member of Emerge New Jersey, collaborating with other members in efforts to expand access to their signature training program.



### **Mr. Rodrigo Tello**

He is a Fintech consultant who championed access to credits and cashless systems for the next billion people in emerging markets worldwide. His experience focuses on the Latin American region where the connectivity barriers are high, but also where public safety is a concern. By fostering a cashless environment, users not only are prone to save more but also eliminate the risk of having their cash assets stolen. He holds a bachelor's degree in International Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University and a postgraduate diploma in digital marketing from Columbia University.



### **Ms. Arshia Dutta**

She is a high school student who is incredibly talented and has received numerous accolades from the QCEC and the prime minister's cabinet. She has a passion for dancing and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Bharatanatyam. Additionally, she is interested in programming and writing. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, learning about terrariums, and occasionally playing the ukulele. Recently, she has been focusing on finding solutions to promote peace and order in society, as well as addressing less obvious issues like the environmental impact of the fast-fashion industry.

**Tuesday, July 18- 1:15-3:45 PM EST**  
**Register @ [bit.ly/HLPFWFWP23](https://bit.ly/HLPFWFWP23)**