NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 1-2:30PM

H.E. Dr. Henry Leonard Mac-Donald is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations. Ambassador Mac-Donald was born in Suriname. He received his legal education at the Law Faculty of the Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo, Suriname (1994) and at the American University in Washington DC, where he obtained an additional Masters of Laws in “Laws and Government” at the Washington College of Law in 2003. He was the Representative and Advisor of his country to the Inter American Defense Board (IADB) in Washington DC and has also been representing Suriname for longer than 8 years as its Alternate Representative to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). Ambassador Mac-Donald is a senior legal advisor on international human rights topics and a principal speech writer for his government on development, legal and diplomatic matters. He has represented his country as Principal Expert before a number of Human Rights bodies at the United Nations (e.g. the Universal Periodic Review (2011); the UN Committee Regarding the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2009); the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child (2007); the UN Committee against the Discrimination of Women (2002), and at the Organization of American States such as at the Moiwaiba hearings before the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (2003) and the Inter American Court of Justice in 2004. Since his arrival at the United Nations five years ago he has served several times as the Chairperson of the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors to the United Nations and as Chairperson of the GRULAC Regional Grouping. He was a Vice President of the General Assembly in 2010, in which capacity he served on numerous occasions as Acting President. Almost two years ago he was very instrumental in having the first Surinamese human rights expert being elected to the Human Rights Committee. He served as Chairperson of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, generally referred to as the Third Committee for the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He has been his country’s National Coordinator for UNASUR and serves as Honorary Adviser to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, as well as to the NGO CSW/NY. In July 2014 he launched in close cooperation with the Permanent Representative of Island and UN WOMEN the UN Friends Group to Promote the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan. Ambassador Mac Donald was the motor behind the Barbershop Conference at the United Nations on January 14 and 15, 2015. This special meeting was organized to invite Men to join Women in their struggle to STOP Violence against Women and Girls all over the world. Ambassador Mac Donald departed the United Nations in December 2015 to take up the position of Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paramaribo, Suriname, just to return recently as the New Permanent Representative at the United Nations. Dr. Henry Mac Donald is also a Board Member of the Suriname Olympic Committee.

Mr. Amir A. Dossal is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnerships Forum – a not-for-profit knowledge platform to provide changemakers with tools to build innovative partnerships to address economic and social challenges – which he established in 2010. He is Co-Founder of the Pearl Initiative, a CEO-led program promoting transparency and accountability in the Middle East, and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, a multi-stakeholder partnership to protect coastal and marine seas around the world. He is also a Commissioner of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. In 2014, President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of Palau, appointed Mr. Dossal as his Special Representative for Global Partnerships. In 2015, the UN Global Compact appointed Mr. Dossal as Special Adviser for Strategic Partnerships. In 2015, he was invited by UN Women to join its global movement for gender equality, as HeForShe Champion. In 2016, he was appointed a UN Women Global Champion for Planet 50-50 by 2030. Mr. Dossal is a 25-year veteran of the United Nations, and served as the UN’s Chief Liaison for Partnerships until September 2010. As Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, which he established in 1998 to manage the $1 billion gift by media mogul Ted Turner, he forged numerous alliances with business and civil society, to address the UN’s global agenda. In 2005, Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked Mr. Dossal to set-up and manage the UN Democracy Fund, whose core mission is to strengthen institutions around the world, and enhance democratic governance in new and restored democracies. In 2006, the Secretary-General tasked him to establish the Peacebuilding Support Office, which assists post-conflict countries in bridging the gap between peace, security and economic development. Over the years, he has managed a number of global development programmes and projects. These humanitarian endeavours have threaded together the leadership role of international organizations and governments, linking them with non-state actors, to encourage innovative collaboration. From 1993 to 1997, Amir served as the Chief of Finance Management in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, where he oversaw finances for 24 peacekeeping operations worldwide (annual budget of $3 billion.) Over the years, he has built alliances with numerous organizations, such as the Arab Foundations Forum, BCIU, Canterbury Cathedral, Chambers of Commerce, CCEP, Commonwealth Business Council, European Foundation Centre, Foreign Policy Association, IDP Foundation, ICAEW, Jewish Children’s Museum, NEDAP, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, United Nations Associations, USCIB, US Department of State, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists and others. In spearheading the UN’s engagement with industry, Mr. Dossal also developed partnerships with leading companies, including BASF, BT, Cisco, Coca-Cola, Dow Chemical, Ericsson, Google, GSK, HSBC, Microsoft, Nestlé, Novartis, Pfizer, DSM, Standard Chartered Bank, Vodafone, and Walmart. By nature, a social entrepreneur and innovator, his work is an endeavour to bond the power of the private sector, government, and civil society; in order that together, they may better serve the greater good. In March 2016, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales bestowed Amir with their 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award, for his work in uniting public and private organizations to address the world’s economic and social challenges. Mr. Dossal serves on the board of several non-profits, including CTFyars, Global Social Compliance Programme, Humpty Dumpty Institute, Hunger Solutions Institute, is a Trustee of the LDNY Foundation, and a member of the Ambassadors Council of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. He is a Patron of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP), Advisory Board member of Captive Minds Communications Group, a leading brand management and communications company in the UK, a founding member of the Advisory Board of The Ethical Capitalism Group™ LLC, Strategic Advisor to the DNA Summit, and Advisor to Iodepad, a new social media platform for ideas. Mr. Dossal is a UK Chartered Accountant (FCA), having qualified from Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, London, now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers. He regularly undertakes speaking engagements and frequently serves as a moderator for high-level panels for the UN system and other international organizations, engaging Heads of States and Ministers. He is married to Tas, and they have one son, Zecki.
Mr. Daniel Thomas, Communications Director and Spokesperson for the President of the 71st United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Thomas leads work on communication and external relations within the Office of President Peter Thomson of Fiji for the 71st United Nations General Assembly. He also serves as Spokesperson for the President. Before joining the Office for the 70th session in September 2015 at the request of President Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark, he headed up communications, mobilization and outreach for the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Change Team within the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. In 2014 he led communications for the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit for which he won an award. Mr. Thomas is a former journalist with Reuters and BBC Television News, he joined UNICEF as a multimedia producer in 2000. In 2008, he left the UN system to join the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) – a public-private global health partnership based in Geneva – eventually becoming Acting Director of Communication. He has travelled to more than 50 countries and lived and worked in Cardiff, Hong Kong, London, Nairobi, Geneva and New York.

Ms. Janet Lee Burton, Chief Field Operations Officer for Ronald McDonald House Charities, Inc. Ms. Burton has a 35-year career in non-profit management focused on designing and executing strategies for global growth and development. In her current role as Chief Field Operations Officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), she is responsible for the strategic direction of the Charity’s global expansion, program development, licensing and compliance, capacity building, and infrastructure of support for 300 local RMHC Chapters operating in 63 countries and regions. Ms. Burton has worked with representatives from myriad healthcare systems, government officials, business leaders and non-governmental organizations to expand the Charity’s presence and operations from 28 countries to 63 countries and regions. She has led the Charity’s expansion of reach and impact on children and their families by increasing RMHC core programs by more than 130%.

H.E. Mr. Carlos Garcia is Founder and CEO of CG Global Consultant and the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations. He had been a career diplomat that served his country in the United Nations from July 1, 1996 to June 17, 2014. Ambassador Garcia currently contributes to the analysis, assessment and promotion of the international relations, in particular the multilateral affairs and the United Nations agenda with CG Global Consultant. During his long standing career in New York, Ambassador Garcia was in charge of the political, economic, financial, social peace and security, humanitarian, environmental and human rights issues, having held several positions, on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean States, such as: President of the General Assembly’s Fourth Committee (2013-2014); Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC 2013-2014); Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Social Development (2013-2014); Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women (2012-2014); Vice-President of the Executive Board of UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS (2011) among other General Assembly’s Vice-Presidencies at the Second and Third Committees, as well as Rapporteur of the Joint Executive Boards field visits to Azerbaijan (2005) and Guatemala (2004). Ambassador Garcia is an Honorary Adviser for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.

Mr. Christopher Spezzano – Founder and President of the Form & Matter Foundation. At nineteen Mr. Spezzano began doing international aid work and helped with AIDS outreach and teaching children how to read at a Liberian refugee settlement. He then taught a variety of subjects in rural villages in a number of developing countries, supported conservation efforts and biological research in the Amazon Rainforest, taught in Riker’s Island prison, and volunteered with a number of charities and organizations dedicated to planetary wellbeing. He has been to the front lines and seen a wide spectrum of humanity’s problems and also the opacity of the global aid system. At the start of his international aid work, it became obvious that there was a big disparity between the efficacy and accountability of the planet’s aid organizations. The Form & Matter Network is an extension of his heart and mind. After graduating with a degree in political science and sociology from Columbia University in the City of New York, he was able to fully devote himself to building the Form & Matter Network and a technology-powered charitable foundation with the ability to transform the international aid process.

Mr. Andrij Dobriansky, Executive Board, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America & United Nations Representative, Ukrainian World Congress. Mr. Dobriansky has devoted his life’s work to empowering the worldwide Ukrainian Diaspora. Serving a multitude of functions, principally as a community organizer and chief advocate, as well as a decorated artist and a cultural historian, he represents his community chiefly through the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (www.ucca.org), the largest representative body serving the needs of approximately 1.5 million Americans claiming Ukrainian descent, as well as the Ukrainian World Congress (www.ukrainianworldcongress.org), the international assembly of all Ukrainian public organizations in the worldwide Ukrainian diaspora of nearly 25 million people. A dynamic political and media personality, he remains the most visible public face of Ukrainians in the United States with over 50 televised appearances in 2014 alone, representing his community throughout the media landscape, on outlets such as The Daily Show, Al Jazeera, MSNBC, Voice of America, BBC, PRI and others. Mr. Dobriansky also helps organize and lead numerous political demonstrations throughout the United States, has lead numerous International Election Observer Missions (EOM) to Ukraine, and actively connects the Ukrainian diaspora with that of the Baltic nations, Poland and Georgia, as well as Syrian and Jewish communities. He is regarded for his expertise in speaking on issues surrounding Ukraine, Russia, Eastern European culture and identity, Catholic and Orthodox religious practices, and leadership and activism in a global world.