



Speaker Bios

Cherdkiat Atthakor is Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. He has a BA in History from Silpakorn University and an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from Thammasat University in Thailand. He also has an MA in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands. As a career diplomat, he was posted in Phnom Penh, the Hague and London. He previously served as the Director of Europe 1 Division (Western Europe and the EU) and the Director of the Peace, Security and Disarmament Division.

Ben Baseley-Walker is Programme Lead of the Emerging Security Threats Programme (EST) at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). With significant experience in international relations, international law, and strategic communications, Mr. Baseley-Walker brings an innovative strategic approach to his work facilitating and supporting international dialogue on emerging areas of conflict and international security. Before joining UNIDIR, Mr. Baseley-Walker was the Advisor on Security Policy and International Law for SWF, a private operating foundation working in the field of space security. In this role he focused on engaging the international community, especially emerging space States, on looking at new methods for multilateral negotiations of space-related international security issues. Previously, Mr. Baseley-Walker worked in international relations and international law in East Africa with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the Ethiopia International Law Project and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Baseley-Walker studied International and European Law at the Universiteit Van Amsterdam Law School in the Netherlands, and Politics at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is a graduate of ISU Space Studies Programme in Beijing.

Dr Abdul-Hakim Elwaer is the Director of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In this role, he is in charge of driving policy and implementing programs for the realization of the African Union vision in the area of science, technology and innovation, primary and high school education, and youth capacity development. He previously occupied the position of Director of Administration and Human Resources Management (AHRM) at AUC managing one of the most diverse directorates in the Commission.

Beatrice Fihn is the Manager of Reaching Critical Will. She monitors and analyzes a wide range of disarmament negotiations and discussions at the UN. She joined Reaching Critical Will in 2010 and prior to this position, she worked as a research officer at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, where she carried out research on geopolitics and global security in areas such as outer space and emerging strategic technologies. Beatrice is currently on the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and is responsible for managing the campaign's international staff team as well as the development and implementation of strategy. She has a BA in International Relations from Stockholm University and a Masters of Law at University of London with a specialization in public international law.

Fermín Romero Vázquez is the Secretariat Pro Tempore for the Space Conference of the Americas. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations with extensive experience in the Mexican federal public service, particularly in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE). At SRE, he served as Director for the General Assembly and International Organizations, and Deputy Directory of Political and Social Affairs. Currently, he is the Director for the UN General Assembly, Space Agenda and Telecommunications in the Directorate General for the UN of SRE, where he is actively promoting the development of aerospace and telecommunications in Mexico, and he has helped to establish the Mexican Space Agency. In November 2010 he was appointed by the Plenary of the 9th Space Conference of the Americas, as the VI Secretary Pro Tempore of the SCA for 2011-2013.