

**Country Participant and Regional Resource Biographies  
UNDP's Experience in Access to Justice  
Oslo, March 3-6, 2002**

The following profiles are based on information received before the workshop began.

**Mr. Fredrick Abeyratne**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Sri Lanka**  
**Nationality: Sri Lankan**

Mr. Abeyratne has been with UNDP for more than 10 years. Currently he has responsibility for governance, which includes support in the area of Human Rights and Access to Justice (pipeline).

**Adel Abdellatif**  
**Manager, Regional Governance Programme**  
**RBAS**  
**Nationality: Egyptian**

**Mr. Adam M. Abdelmoula**  
**Senior Human Rights Adviser**  
**UNDP Somalia**  
**Nationality: Sudanese**

Mr. Abdelmoula has worked with UNDP Somalia since 1999 on governance and rule of law related interventions, particularly UNDP's three-year Somali Civil Protection Program. Originally a practicing attorney in Sudan, he has also worked for Human Rights Watch, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the Fund for Peace and the Arab Lawyers Union. He holds a Masters of Law from Harvard Law School, USA, and a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Georgetown University, USA.

**Ms. Marta Alvarado**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Panama**  
**Nationality: Panamanian**

Ms. Alvarado has been working with UNDP for the past 17 years in a variety of roles. For the past six years she has worked with the Operations NEX unit, and joined the Governance unit three months ago. She holds a degree in Law and Political Science.

## Participant Biographies

**Mr. Tomas Baranovas**  
**Programme Associate**  
**UNDP Lithuania**

Mr. Baranovas has worked with UNDP for three years with a governance portfolio that includes legal reform, human rights and parliamentary strengthening. Prior to joining UNDP, he worked at the Administration of Vilnius region as head of the Economic Development unit. Mr. Baranovas holds a Masters degree in Law and Administration from Lithuanian Law University.

**Mr. Manoj Basnyat**  
**Deputy Resident Representative**  
**UNDP Ukraine**  
**Nationality: Nepalese**

Mr. Basnyat was previously the Deputy Coordinator of the Bratislava SURF.

**Ms. Elise Bouvet**  
**Junior Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Lebanon**  
**Nationality: French**

Ms. Bouvet joined UNDP in 2000 and is responsible for governance (including justice reform), cross cutting themes such as gender and youth, TOKTEN programme and resource mobilization with Francophone donors. Previously she worked with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF on matters related to sustainable Development. She holds a Masters degree in Public Law.

**Ms. Micheline Boya**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Benin**  
**Nationality: Beninese**

Ms. Boya has worked for UNDP for more than 20 years in the areas of poverty reduction, governance and micro-finance. For the past two months, she has been in charge of the Public Administration Reform project in Benin. Ms. Boya holds a Masters in Sociology.

**Mr. Hans Petter Buvollen**  
**Programme Coordinator – Civil Society**  
**UNDP Guatemala**  
**Nationality: Norwegian**

Mr. Buvollen is a cultural anthropologist with 14 years experience in Central America. He has worked in academics and in the promotion of bilateral, multilateral and NGO cooperation. Currently he leads a programme in Guatemala on “Civil Society Participation in National Reconciliation, Human Rights and Justice.”

**Ms. María Castells**  
**International Advisor in Judicial Reform**  
**UNDP Guatemala**  
**Nationality: Uruguayan**

Ms. Castells provides leadership to the UNDP Guatemala Justice Programme, assuring strong results that are consistent with the UNDP/Guatemala vision of justice system reform, the Peace Accords, UN mandates, and the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Magistrates. She worked as an international consultant for ILO and UNDP in Uruguay, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru and Paraguay in the areas of human rights, labor rights and justice reform. Ms. Castells has a Ph.D. in Law and Social Sciences.

**Ms. Francesca Dagnino**  
**Technical Advisor, Justice**  
**UNDP Mozambique**  
**Nationality: Italian**

Ms. Dagnino has worked in several African countries as a project manager in the fields of legal reform, access to justice, refugee protection and institutional capacity building. From 1979 to 1984, she was an adviser to the Ministry of Justice of Mozambique. She holds a Masters of Law degree and previously worked for an Italian legal firm.

**Mr. Philippe Devaud**  
**Assistant Resident Representative**  
**UNDP Lao PDR**  
**Nationality: French**

Mr. Devaud has 10 years experience in management and supervision of UNDP programmes in several fields including governance, infrastructure and agricultural rehabilitation and environmental protection. He has served UNDP in Mali, Cambodia, DPR Korea and Lao.

**Mr. Amin El Sharkawi**  
**Assistant Resident Representative/Team Leader ,**  
**Governance & Institutional Development**  
**UNDP Egypt**  
**Nationality: Egyptian**

Mr. El Sharkawi has worked in the USA, UK and Egypt in various managerial roles in local and international business and for international development agencies. He has expertise in the areas of decentralization, planning, participatory development, civil society, institutional development and reform. He holds an Master of Business Administration from the Maastricht School of Management and a Master of Science from the University of Massachusetts, USA.

## Participant Biographies

**Ms. Cheryl Gopaul**  
**Policy Specialist – Governance**  
**UNDP Jamaica**  
**Nationality: Guyanese/Canadian**

Ms. Gopaul joined UNDP in January 2002. She brings more than 20 years work experience in a wide variety of areas relating to governance, community development, planning, information access, change management, human rights and rights based programming. She previously worked with other UN agencies and governments in Jamaica, Guyana, Granada, Canada and the USA. She holds a Masters degree in Planning, and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of the West Indies. She is a certified professional planner.

**Mr. Samuel Harbor**  
**Chief, Governance and Development Management**  
**UNDP Nigeria**  
**Nationality: Nigerian**

Mr. Harbor also serves as Assistant Resident Representative for Programmes. He actively participated in the formulation of the national programme on governance and remains the UNDP focal point for that sector. Prior to joining UNDP, Mr. Harbor worked in banking and finance.

**Ms. Salohy Irina Irodia**  
**National Economist**  
**UNDP Madagascar**  
**Nationality: Malagasy**

Ms. Irodia works with the Strategy and Policy Unit, which is in charge of studies in the fields of poverty, governance and the private sector. In 2002, the project will focus on the millennium Declaration and the promotion of the knowledge of human development. She holds a Masters degree in Economics.

**Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai**  
**Assistant Resident Representative, Programmes**  
**UNDP Yemen**  
**Nationality: Afghan**

Mr. Isaczai is currently responsible for the governance programmes, including the justice sector. Past experience includes five years work with international NGO's in humanitarian and development work in Afghanistan and Pakistan and work with the Oil for Food Programme. He holds a Masters in Public International Law and Conflict Resolution.

## Participant Biographies

**Mr. Alexander Kashkarev**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Nationality: Kyrgyz**

Mr. Kashkarev has served as a UNDP Programme Officer for six years. Previously he worked as a researcher and as a government civil servant. He holds a Ph.D. in Biology.

**Thomas Kerscher**  
**Programme Adviser - Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**  
**Nationality: German**

Mr. Kerscher has experience with international and bilateral Technical Cooperation Agencies in the development and implementation of Governance Programmes in Asia, Africa and Europe. His prime interest is in models and methods for change management. He holds a Masters degree in Economics.

**Mr. Lawrence Lachmansingh**  
**Programme Analyst – Governance**  
**UNDP Guyana**  
**Nationality: Guyanese**

Mr. Lachmansingh joined UNDP in January. Previously, he was deputy director of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs Asia programmes. He has worked in both Asia and in the West Bank/Gaza. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada.

**Ms. Lucie Andrew Luguga**  
**Assistant Resident Representative, Governance**  
**UNDP Tanzania**  
**Nationality: Tanzania**

Ms. Luguga has worked with UNDP for more than 10 years in the areas of anti-corruption, elections, human rights, HIV/AIDS and poverty eradication. She worked previously from the Government of Tanzania as a Senior Planning Officer. She holds a Masters in Regional Planning.

**Henny Matos**  
**Senior Assistant Resident Representative, Mozambique**  
**Nationality: Mozambican**

Ms. Matos presently oversees the governance portfolio which includes programs in justice, police reform, parliament, public sector reform, decentralization, elections and media. Previously she worked on environmental and other development issues at the non-governmental, bilateral and multilateral government levels. Ms. Matos holds a Masters degree in Sociology.

## Participant Biographies

**Mr. Shashikant Nair**  
**Governance Specialist**  
**Pacific Island Countries**  
**Nationality: Fijian**

Mr. Nair is the focal point for governance in the UNDP Fiji office and manages several programmes, including “Poverty Reduction through Access to Justice for All.” He also is responsible for governance programmes in the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. Previously he worked for the Government of Fiji as a Principal Economic Planning Office and Education Administrator. He holds a Masters in Geography and Population Studies from the University of Hawaii, USA.

**Ms. Susan D. Page**  
**Legal Advisor**  
**UNDP Rwanda**  
**Nationality: American**

Ms. Page joined UNDP in March 2001 where she focuses mainly on justice matters (including classical justice and gacaca, an ADR system), rule of law, human rights, and assistance to the Rwanda national commissions. Previously she worked for the U.S. State Department on legal and political affairs and in USAID missions in Kenya and Botswana. Ms. Page received a J.D from Harvard Law School, USA.

**Mr. Axel Piers**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Congo-Brazzaville**  
**Nationality: Belgium**

Mr. Piers has extensive experience in the justice sector in Belgium and abroad. He worked with the International Federation of Human Rights in Rwanda and as the Head of Mission for a program to create a Bureau of Juridical Assistance. Currently he serves a project coordinator for the human rights project in UNDP Congo-Brazzaville. He holds a degree in Criminology from the University of Liege, Belgium.

**Mr. Stefan Priesner**  
**Deputy Chief**  
**Kathmandu SURF**

Mr. Priesner holds graduate degrees in law (University of Vienna) and international relations (Johns Hopkins University, SAIS). He currently works as Deputy Chief of the Kathmandu SURF, where he also covers justice and human rights. Past experiences include working as Governance Specialist for UNDP Bhutan with a portfolio focusing on decentralization and justice reform. Mr. Priesner's role in the workshop is as a resource person as well as a participant.

**Mr. Arben Rama**  
**Development Advisor**  
**UNDP Albania**  
**Nationality: Albanian**

## Participant Biographies

Mr. Rama has worked with the European Union and UNDP on matters related to development. His educational background focused on political science and diplomacy.

**Ms. Rini Reza**  
**Assistant Resident Representative**  
**UNDP Vietnam**  
**Nationality: Bangladeshi**

Ms. Reza has worked with UNDP since 1992, previously for UNDP Bangladesh office on a large governance program that included access to justice and human rights. Prior to that she worked as a civil servant of the Government of Bangladesh and has served as a consultant on governance with the Government of Malawi and with UNIFEM in Nigeria. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

**Ms. Habiba Rodolfo**  
**National Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Mozambique**  
**Nationality: Mozambican**

Ms. Rodolfo joined UNDP in 2000. She works in the governance unit and is in charge of the justice programme and media project. She worked previously as a researcher and lecturer at the Higher Institute for International Relations. Ms. Rodolfo holds a Masters in International Studies from the University of Leeds, UK.

**Mr. Ahmad Salari**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Iran**  
**Nationality: Iranian**

Prior to joining UNDP Iran in 1998, Mr. Salari taught at a university near Tehran and was a consultant for the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UNHCR office in Tehran. He holds a Masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and a Masters of Anthropology from the University of Missouri, USA.

**Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha**  
**Policy Specialist, Rule of Law**  
**Bangkok SURF**  
**Nationality: Sri Lankan**

Mr. Samarasinha joined UNDP in 1999 and has been the Rule of Law/Judicial Reform Specialist with the Bangkok SURF since March 2001. He provides advisory services in the justice sector to country offices in East Asia and the Pacific. Before joining UNDP he worked as National Coordinator of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence in Sri Lanka.

## Participant Biographies

He has served with various civil society organizations and with public interest law firms in the United States, India, South Africa and Sri Lanka and has also worked extensively as a broadcast and print journalist. He holds a J.D. degree from the University of Maryland.

**Mr. Sergei Sirotkin**  
**Human Rights Advisor**  
**UNDP RBEC Regional Support Centre, Bratislava**  
**Nationality: Russian**

Mr. Sirotkin has extensive experience in human rights related issues, including expertise in parliamentary development. He is a former Member of Parliament and Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee. He holds a degree from Rostov State University & Diplomatic Academy, Moscow, Russia.

**Vitalie Snegur**  
**Assistant Resident Representative**  
**UNDP Republic of Moldova**  
**Nationality: Moldovan**

Prior to joining UNDP, Mr. Snegur served in the Moldovan diplomatic service in New York City and Brussels. He holds a Bachelor degree in political science from the Moscow State University, Russian Federation, and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the United Business Institutes, Brussels, Belgium.

**Mr. R. Sudarshan**  
**Senior Governance Advisor**  
**UNDP Indonesia**  
**Nationality: Indian**

Mr. Sudarshan is currently managing programmes related to parliamentary, legal and judicial, and electoral reforms, and is a member of the Policy Committee of the Partnership for Governance Reforms in Indonesia. From 1991 until 2000, he was the ARR heading the Public Policy Programme Division and the Human Development Resource Centre in UNDP-New Delhi. Previously, he was Assistant Representative at the Ford Foundation, dealing with access to justice, human rights and governance programmes in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and is a graduate of the Delhi School of Economics.

**Ms. Amparo Tomas**  
**Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Philippines**  
**Nationality: Spanish**

Ms. Tomas is responsible for the implementation of rights-based approaches to development. Previously she worked for NGOs in the area of human rights advocacy and with the

## Participant Biographies

government on social and political research. She holds a Masters in International Studies and a Masters in European Law and Institutions.

**Ms. Kristina Ulgemo**  
**Junior Programme Officer**  
**UNDP Haiti**  
**Nationality: Swedish**

Ms. Ulgemo joined UNDP Haiti in 2000 and is currently working with the Rule of Law programme. She has been working in the area of human rights since 1997, previously with the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights. She holds a Masters of Law from Stockholm University, specializing in public law and human rights.

**Ms. Myriemme Zniber**  
**RRA/Programme**  
**UNDP Morocco**

Ms. Zniber has been working with UNDP Morocco since 1986. She is in charge of a large governance programme as well as social programmes such as Prior to that, she taught at the Moroccan High School of Public Administration. I am in charge of a large governance programme but also of what we call the “social programmes” such education, health / HIV-AIDS and drinking water in rural areas. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from a French university.