



Global Commission on Democracy and Multilateralism

WORKING GROUP 1 MEMBERS



WORKING GROUP LEADS

- **Annika Silva-Leander**, Head of North America and Permanent Observer of International IDEA to the United Nations
- **Massimo Tommasoli**, Former Director of Global Programmes at International IDEA

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

- **Andreas Bummel**, Executive Director, Democracy Without Borders
- **Kizito Byenkya**, Global Advocacy Director, Open Society Foundations
- **Colombe Cahen-Salvador**, Founder, Atlas Movement
- **Anne-Marie Goetz**, Former Director of the Peace and Security section of UN Women
- **Marta Lagos**, Founder & Executive Director, Latinobarómetro
- **Adam Lupel**, Executive Director, Coalition for the UN we Need
- **Richard Ponzio**, Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Program and a Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center
- **Roland Rich**, Director of the United Nations & Global Policy Studies at Rutgers University
- **Otto Saki**, Senior Program Officer, Global Governance, Ford Foundation
- **Rana Siu Inboden**, UN Academic Expert at the University of Texas
- **Mandeep Tiwana**, Secretary General, CIVICUS
- **Rohan Edrisinha**, Former Senior Political Officer and Constitutional Advisor in the Prevention and Mediation Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations
- **Craig Jennes**, Former Director of Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations
- **Minh-Thu Pham**, Co-founder & CEO, Project Starling **(TBC)**
- **Ted Piccone**, Content Director of Global Commission on Democracy and Multilateralism, Advisor of Club de Madrid
- **Amanda Sourek**, Outreach and United Nations Liaison, International IDEA

WORKING GROUP LEADS

Annika Silva-Leander, Head of North America and Permanent Observer of International IDEA to the United Nations

Dr Annika Silva-Leander is Head of North America at International IDEA where she oversees International IDEA's outreach and partnerships in the region, including relations with US and Canadian stakeholders, including civil society organizations, think tanks and academic institutions, as well as Global Affairs Canada, its engagement with the United Nations, and coordination of the Global Democracy Coalition. She is also International IDEA's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, representing International IDEA at the UN General Assembly as a leading voice and advocate on democracy.



In her UN role, she leads International IDEA's democracy advocacy and research at the UN, focusing on the nexus between democracy and sustainable development.

Between 2018 and 2021, Silva-Leander was the Head of the Democracy Assessment Unit in Stockholm, where she led International IDEA's Global State of Democracy report, as lead author, editor and Programme head. She also oversaw the production of the annually updated Global State of Democracy Indices and the implementation of the Covid-19 Global Monitor on Democracy and Human Rights. From 2015 to 2018, she worked as the Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General of International IDEA.

Prior to joining International IDEA, Silva-Leander worked for 10 years as a Social Development Specialist at the World Bank, on civic engagement and poverty reduction in Asia, Latin America and Africa. During her nine years in Asia, she worked for the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP.

Massimo Tommasoli, Former Director of Global Programmes at International IDEA

Massimo Tommasoli was the Director of Global Programmes. Tommasoli is a policy specialist with extensive experience in democracy building, democratic governance, social analysis and evaluation in aid agencies.

He led and managed a portfolio of programmes that supports democracy world-wide through the development and application of global comparative knowledge resources and tools, enhancing democratic reforms, as well as actively contributing to shaping global and regional policy agendas by bringing the democracy lens and perspective to debates at that level.



This portfolio includes workstreams on Electoral Processes, Constitution-Building Processes, Political Participation and Representation (with focus on parliamentary strengthening and money in politics), Democracy Assessment, Gender and Inclusion, Climate Change, and Digitalization.

As Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations (2007-2023) he has led policy advocacy initiatives at the UN General Assembly and in other multilateral policy fora. He had previously been International IDEA's Director of Operation in Stockholm (2004-2007); Head of the Good Governance and Conflict Prevention Unit in the Development Cooperation Directorate at the OECD in Paris (1999-2003); Social Development and Evaluation Specialist at the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome (1989-1999). He held positions at UNESCO in Addis Ababa and the Istituto Italo-Africano in Rome.

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Andreas Bummel, Executive Director, Democracy Without Borders

Andreas Bummel is founder and executive director of Democracy Without Borders. He is known worldwide as an expert and advocate for a world parliament. The campaign he has been leading for a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN has been supported by more than 1,500 parliamentarians from over 100 countries.

Since 2021, he has been one of the co-convenors of the “We The Peoples” campaign, which advocates for more democracy at the UN. By now, over 300 groups from around the world have joined, including leading environmental and civic rights NGOs.

From 1998 to 2018, he served on the Council of the World Federalist Movement, which played a central role in supporting the creation of the International Criminal Court. Since 2023 he is among those promoting a UN Special Rapporteur on Democracy. He has spoken at events in over twenty of countries, including at Yale University, the London School of Economics, the Athens Democracy Forum, and the Pan-African Parliament, among other venues. In recognition of his work, the Society for Threatened Peoples made him an honorary member.

Andreas authored the book *A World Parliament: Governance and Democracy in the 21st Century* (with Jo Leinen) which provides an account of the history, relevance and implementation of a global parliament. In 2024, a second expanded and updated edition was published.



Adam Lupel, Executive Director of the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN)

Adam Lupel is the executive director for the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), which is a global platform of civil society organizations committed to creating a stronger, more effective and more accountable UN System. C4UN works to empower civil society organizations to facilitate their engagement in UN processes.

Lupel was the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the International Peace Institute from 2016–2025. He served as IPI Acting President and CEO from October 2020 to March 2021. He was responsible for developing IPI’s long-term research agenda and for overseeing management and coordination among all IPI Departments.

Between 2014 and 2016 he served as the director of research and publications for the Independent Commission on Multilateralism, a project of IPI. In 2015, he led IPI’s support to the General Assembly-mandated “Lessons Learned Exercise” on the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, working in close collaboration with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Dr. Lupel also conducts research on issues related to globalization, multilateralism, and the prevention of mass atrocities. He is the author of *Globalization and Popular Sovereignty: Democracy’s Transnational Dilemma* (2009) and the co-editor of *Peace Operations and Organized Crime: Enemies or Allies?* (2011) and *Responding to Genocide: The Politics of International Action* (2013).



Kizito Byenkya, Global Advocacy Director, Open Society Foundations

Kizito Byenkya is the Global Advocacy Director at the Open Society Foundations. He has extensive experience in advocacy and program management, particularly within human rights and development sectors.

Currently serving as Advocacy Director at Open Society Foundations since June 2010, Kizito oversees a global grant-making portfolio focused on participation rights and human rights defenders, while also leading initiatives in East Africa and Southeast Asia.

Previous roles at Open Society Foundations include Co-director of the DC Office and Director of Campaigns. Kizito is also the founder of CompareAfrique.com, an online forum addressing Africa's development challenges. Educational qualifications include a Master's degree in International Development from American University and a Bachelor's in International Affairs from The University of Georgia.



Minh-Thu Pham, Co-founder & CEO, Project Starling (TBC)

With 20 years of experience at the forefront of global policymaking and innovative ventures, Minh-Thu is a political and policy entrepreneur, nonprofit leader, and activist. She is co-founder and CEO of the Starling Institute, is a Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and teaches at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.

As a former refugee and boat person from Vietnam, Minh-Thu knows how it feels to be powerless. And as a leader who has operated at senior levels of the policy world, she also knows what it's like to have power.

Driven by a belief that change requires connecting people, ideas, and power, Minh-Thu builds networks of policymakers, activists, and experts and helps them work together to build momentum for change. She leverages her knowledge of international relations and institutions, social change, political organizing, strategic communications, and public policy to shape politics and policy, mobilize action, and help ideas make an impact.

Previously, Minh-Thu was an advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, where she helped to steer the UN through a period of deep crisis after the Iraq War and played a key role in the 2005 World Summit to renew the UN and address global threats and challenges. This included running the UN's first comprehensive mandate review in 2005-07 and shaping the Peacebuilding Commission in its first years. As executive director of global policy at the UN Foundation for over a decade, she started and ran a global effort to help the UN create and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Sustainable Development, and undertake institutional reforms.

Minh-Thu has led dozens of track 1.5 and track 2 dialogues with government negotiators and civil society actors that have resulted in political breakthroughs. She built a global network of stakeholders to shape summit negotiations, which included think tanks and civil society actors from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Her work helped to open up UN decision-making processes to those not usually represented. Earlier in her career, Minh-Thu worked to implement the Dayton Peace Accord that ended the war in Bosnia, for the High Representative and aided refugee children in Ethiopia. More recently, Minh-Thu advised efforts to strengthen democracy globally and in the United States, and led an effort to mobilize immigrant voters in the 2020 U.S. presidential election and tackle misinformation targeting them.



Rana Siu Inboden, Senior Fellow with the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Rana Siu Inboden is a Senior Fellow with the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas–Austin. She serves as a consultant on human rights, democracy and rule of law projects in Asia for a number of non-governmental organizations and conducts research related to international human rights, Chinese foreign policy, the Uyghur crisis, the effectiveness of international human rights and democracy projects and authoritarian collaboration in the United Nations.



Her first book, *China and the International Human Rights Regime* (Cambridge, 2021) examines China's role in the international human rights regime between 1982 and 2017. Dr. Inboden has also done pro bono advocacy for the persecuted church in China.

Previously, Dr. Inboden served in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor where her primary responsibilities included managing the State Department's Human Rights and Democracy Fund China program and promoting U.S. human rights and democracy policy in China and North Korea. She also served at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, in the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, and in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research where she covered U.S.–China relations.

Dr. Inboden holds a DPhil from the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University. She obtained an M.A. at Stanford University in East Asian Studies and a B.S. at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She was awarded a U.S. State Department Superior Honor Award for her work in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Otto Saki, Senior Program Officer, Global Governance, Ford Foundation

Otto Saki is Senior Program Officer in the Global Governance Program at the Ford Foundation. Until 2025, was program officer for Civic Engagement and Government International at the Foundation.

Before that, he was the global program officer on the Civic Engagement and Government team and as well as the program officer in Ford's Southern Africa office. His areas of interest are global and regional political economy, regional economic communities, health, information technology, and global governance.



Otto holds an honours bachelor of laws degree and two master of laws degrees, one in human rights law and the other in information technology law from Columbia University.

Marta Lagos, Founder and Director of Latinobarómetro

Marta Lagos is one of the most influential voices in Latin America when it comes to understanding the region's political changes. She has spent more than forty years conducting and analyzing surveys. In 1995, she founded Latinobarómetro, the most prestigious annual public opinion survey in the continent, which bases its measurements on more than 20,000 interviews across eighteen countries.

Lagos was director of the Center for the Study of Contemporary Reality (CERC), where she created a system that has monitored Chile's transition to democracy up to the present day.

She also heads the consulting firm MORI Chile, through which she has conducted opinion studies in more than twenty countries. Additionally, she is part of the research group for the World Values Survey and serves on the committee that organizes the World Electoral Systems Study. She is also a board member of the Women's World Banking organization and a consultant for several international organizations.



Anne Marie Goetz, Former Director of the Peace and Security section of UN Women

Dr. Goetz is currently a Clinical Professor at the New York University. She served at the United Nations between 2005 and 2014 as a Policy Director of Governance, Peace and Security, at UNIFEM and UN Women.

From 1991 – 2005 she was a Professorial Fellow in Political Science at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She also served the United Nations Development Program in Chad and Guinea in the mid-1980s.

While at the UN, Dr. Goetz spearheaded initiatives to build women's participation in representative politics, to promote women's empowerment in the UN's peace building work in post-conflict situations, and to support the participation of women leaders and rights organizations in peace talks and post-conflict decision-making.

She worked with the UN Security Council to improve responses to sexual violence in conflict, and to build peacekeepers' capacities to prevent these abuses. Dr. Goetz is the author of seven books on the subjects of gender, politics and policy in developing countries, and on accountability reforms – including the 2009 volume: *Governing Women: Women in Politics and Governance in Developing Countries*, and the UNIFEM flagship report: *Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability*.



Rohan Edrisinha, Former Senior Political Officer and Constitutional Advisor in the Prevention and Mediation Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations

Rohan Edrisinha was a Senior Political Officer and Constitutional Advisor to the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) of the United Nations, New York from 2016 to 2023. He served as the constitutional advisor to the United Nations in Nepal and the head of UNDP's constitution support programme (SPCBN) from 2011 to 2014.



He taught at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo from 1986 to 2011, the Faculty of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, in 1995, and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University (2005) and the University of Toronto (2009). He has law degrees from the University of Colombo and the University of California, Berkeley, and a post-graduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya.

He was a founder Director and Head of the Legal and Constitutional Unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), Sri Lanka, from 1996 to 2010. He was a constitutional consultant to the Forum of Federations, which advised the Norwegian facilitated Sri Lankan peace negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE in 2001–3.

Following his return to Sri Lanka in 2024, he was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Colombo and the Standing Legal Advisor to the Anglican Bishop of Colombo. In October 2025, he undertook a six week consultancy in Kathmandu to advise the UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal on recent political developments in the country.

Craig Jenness, Former Director of Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations

Craig Jenness is an international civil servant whose career in the United Nations and the OSCE has spanned more than three decades.

He was Director of the UN Electoral Assistance Division from 2006 to 2025. There, he advised UN senior leadership and the UN system on all matters relating to requests from Member States for electoral assistance. He oversaw UN electoral support (technical and diplomatic) in more than 50 countries each year, guiding teams that worked with governments, opposition groups and citizens to strengthen electoral integrity, promote peaceful political participation and reinforce democratic institutions.



Prior to that assignment Mr. Jenness held an appointment from the UN Secretary-General as International Commissioner on the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq. His electoral experience also includes service as Head of the OSCE Election Observation to Georgia (2004); Head of OSCE's Election Support Team to Afghanistan (2005); Head of the IOM Out-of-Country Voting Programme in Iran for the 2004 Afghan elections, and Chair of the Bosnian National Elections Implementation Committee (1997).

His service in multilateral diplomacy and peacekeeping includes: OSCE/Ambassador Head of Mission to Skopje (2001–2004), where he oversaw the OSCE's responsibilities under the Ohrid Peace Agreement; Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (1999–2000); Deputy Head of Mission/Head of Human Rights OSCE mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina (1995–1999); UN civil affairs officer (Bosnia-Herzegovina 1994) and UN human rights officer (Cambodia 1993). Mr. Jenness is a citizen of Canada and a barrister and solicitor by profession.

Roland Rich, Director of the United Nations & Global Policy Studies at Rutgers University

Roland Rich, is currently the Director of the United Nations & Global Policy Studies at Rutgers University. He joined Rutgers in 2015 after seven years at the United Nations where he was Executive Head of the United Nations Democracy Fund and from 2010 to 2014 concurrently Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

Prior to his appointment to the UN, Dr. Rich was at the Australian Defence College. In 2005, he was a research Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington DC.



Between 1998 and 2005, he was the Foundation Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions at the Australian National University. He joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1975 and had postings in Paris, Rangoon and Manila and, from 1994 to 1997 he was Australian Ambassador to Laos. At headquarters, he also served as Legal Advisor and Assistant Secretary for International Organisations.

He has published *The UN Role in Promoting Democracy* (UNU Press, 2004), *Pacific Asia in Quest of Democracy* (Rienner, 2007), *Parties and Parliaments in Southeast Asia – Non-Partisan Chambers in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines* (Routledge, 2012), *Democracy in Crisis – Why, Where, How to Respond* (Rienner, 2017), and *The United Nations as Leviathan: Global Governance in the Post-American World* (Hamilton/Bloomsbury, 2022).

Richard Ponzio, Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Program and a Senior Fellow at Stimson

Richard Ponzio is Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Program and a Senior Fellow at Stimson. Previously, he directed the Global Governance Program at The Hague Institute for Global Justice, where (in a partnership with Stimson) he served as Director for the Albright-Gambari Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance. He brings expertise in the areas of global and national democratic institution-building, global political economy, South-Central Asia, and the role of international institutions in responding to state fragility, climate instability, global financial volatility, and population displacement.



Ponzio is formerly a Senior Adviser in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he conceptualized and coordinated Secretary Hillary Clinton's and later John Kerry's New Silk Road initiative. Earlier he served as a Senior Strategy and Policy Officer in the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, where he initiated a global network of multi/bilateral peacebuilding and stabilization organizations. From 1999–2009, Ponzio served in a variety of senior policy and strategic planning positions for the United Nations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, and New York.

Ponzio has published widely in academic and policy journals, edited volumes, newspapers, U.N. policy reports, and books, including *Democratic Peacebuilding: Aiding Afghanistan and other Fragile States* (OUP 2011), *Human Development and Global Institutions: Evolution, Impact, and Reform* (Routledge 2016, co-authored with Dr. Arunabha Ghosh), and *Just Security in an Undergoverned World* (OUP 2018, co-edited with Dr. William Durch and Dr. Joris Larik). He serves on the boards of the Academic Council on the UN System and the Coalition for the UN We Need, as well as on the Steering Committee of the Mary Robinson-led Climate Governance Commission.

Mandeep Tiwana, Secretary General, CIVICUS

Mandeep Tiwana is a human rights lawyer by training, specialising in legislation relating to the core civil society freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

He is passionate about improving civil society's participation in decision making, and has written extensively on the intersection between civil society, sustainable development and international affairs. Previously, Mandeep advised the International Committee of the Red Cross in New Delhi.



He has also worked with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative where he helped develop human rights modules for Commonwealth Parliamentarians and co-authored a citizens' handbook on human rights commissions in India. Presently Mandeep oversees CIVICUS's work on defending civic freedoms and promoting democratic values while leading organisational engagement at the UN headquarters in New York.

Colombe Cahen-Salvador, Founder, Atlas Movement

Colombe Cahen-Salvador is a political activist and co-founder of Atlas, a global political movement uniting people for humanity's survival, with 25,000+ members in over 134 countries. She is currently challenging the United Nations Secretary-General selection process, for climate change, artificial intelligence, wars, dictatorships, pandemics, and poverty to finally be tackled.

She is currently a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for International Policy, looking into how to design an effective, democratic global governance system.



Previously, Colombe co-founded Volt Europa, the first pan-European political party, served as a trustee of the United Nations Association – UK, and sat on the board of the Democracy and Culture Foundation. She also lectured at Northeastern University for the Sociology & International Relations Departments, focusing on how global governance could tackle global challenges.

Ted Piccone, Nonresident Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution, Club de Madrid Advisor & Content Director of the GCDM

Ted Piccone is a nonresident senior fellow in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. During his 11 years in residence at Brookings, he was a senior fellow and the Charles W. Robinson Chair, appointed the inaugural fellow of the Brookings-Robert Bosch Foundation Transatlantic Initiative in Berlin, and served as the acting vice president and director and deputy director of the Foreign Policy program. His research has covered global democracy, rule of law and human rights policies; U.S.-Latin American relations, including China's rising profile; emerging powers; and multilateral affairs.



Piccone is the author of "Five Rising Democracies and the Fate of the International Liberal Order" (Brookings Institution Press, 2016), which examined the trajectories of India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Turkey.

Piccone served eight years as a senior foreign policy advisor in the Clinton administration, including on the National Security Council staff, at the State Department's Office of Policy Planning and the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. From 2001 to 2008, Piccone was the executive director and co-founder of the Democracy Coalition Project, a research and advocacy organization working to promote international cooperation for democracy and human rights globally. He was also the Washington office director for the Club of Madrid, an association of over 100 former heads of state and government engaged in efforts to strengthen democracy around the world, and continues as an advisor. Piccone's other positions have included chief engagement officer at the World Justice Project, counsel for the United Nations Truth Commission in El Salvador, and press secretary to U.S. Representative Bob Edgar.

Amanda Sourek, Outreach and United Nations Liaison, International IDEA

Amanda Sourek is the United Nations Liaison for International IDEA in New York. She is responsible for Member State outreach; engagement with UN processes, negotiations and resolutions; drafting and delivering of statements; and fostering partnerships with other actors on the ground, including UN agencies and other like-minded organizations. Sourek coordinates the SDG 16 Data Initiative, a consortium of 18 organizations seeking to track the progress of SDG 16 through non-official data. She also represents International IDEA in the Steering Committee of the SDG16+ Coalition.



She leads the UN and Democracy Hub, a user-friendly and intuitive digital library that provides a one-stop-shop for knowledge resources, data, and analysis on democracy-related topics, including development, political participation, gender equality, human rights, peace and security, and other emerging issues in the context of the work of the United Nations.

Prior to this role, Sourek was responsible for all operations and communications of the North America Programme. She also played a pivotal role in the launch of the Global Democracy Coalition in 2021.

Before joining International IDEA in 2018, Amanda Sourek worked in the academic setting as a research assistant on Judaic Studies and Argentine Pensions. She also has over 10 years of experience as a teacher in Brazil and the USA.