

SESSION 1 BIOS OF SPEAKERS

Michelle Leighton

Ms Leighton is Chief of the Labour Migration Branch for the ILO, leading the Office's global programme on Labour migration and mobility related to migrants and refugees, including work on implementing fair and effective labour migration policies and frameworks, fair recruitment practices, and global skills partnerships for migrant workers. She represents the ILO in the UN Migration Network and helps to coordinate partnerships with IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, the World Bank and other organizations.

She is an expert in international law, human rights, climate displacement, and economic development, receiving her LL.M degree from the London school of Economics and Political Science in 1987. She currently serves as an expert appointed to the UNFCCC WIM Task Force on Displacement related to climate change, and has formerly served on the WEF Global Agenda Council on Migration, as UNU Chair on Social Vulnerability, and as a United States Fulbright Scholar in Central Asia.

Nilim Baruah

Mr Nilim Baruah has been working on migration issues since 1998 and earlier in the development field. Before assuming his current responsibilities as Senior Migration Specialist at the ILO (International Labour Organization) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in 2011, he was the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of ILO technical cooperation labour migration projects in Southeast Asia (2010-11) and Eastern Europe/Central Asia (2007-2010).

Earlier he headed IOM's (International Organization for Migration) Labour Migration unit in Geneva from 2002-2007. He is co-author of *the OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies (2006)* which has been published in several languages and has authored several papers on labour migration, recruitment and remittances. Prior to the IOM, Nilim Baruah worked in the development field with Oxfam (U.K/Ireland) as the Country Representative in Yerevan, Armenia (1995-2002) and Regional Representative in Bhubaneshwar, India (1991-94). He studied Development Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, (1984-86) where he obtained a Master's Degree in International Affairs.

Ryszard Cholewinski

Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski is the Senior Migration Specialist in the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut. Between 2010 and 2017, he was a Migration Policy Specialist in the Labour Migration Branch in Geneva.

He is a lawyer by training with 13 years of previous experience in an academic setting. He has written widely on the human rights of migrants, labour migration, and various aspects of European Union law and policy relating to migration. Most recently, he was the lead author of *Addressing governance challenges in a changing labour migration landscape*, the report for the general discussion on labour migration at the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2017.

Prior to the ILO, he was a Senior Migration Policy and Research Specialist in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva and Reader in Law at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Ottawa, a Master in Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Leicester.