Ghassan Issa is a Lebanese Pediatrician currently serving as the Director of the Arab Network for Early Childhood Development. He is Senior Advisor of the National Strategy for Early Childhood Development for the Lebanese Higher Council of Childhood.

James F. Leckman is the Neison Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology at Yale; and Director of Research for the Yale Child Study Center. His work includes research on parenting and the role of the bio-behavioral systems that closely interconnect our affiliative and stress response bio-behavioral systems.

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury was Bangladesh’s Permanent Representative to the UN and served as Under-Secretary-General of the UN for the world’s most vulnerable nations. He is the Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP).

David Donoghue is the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations. Previous assignments include ambassadorships in Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He also served as the Director-General of Irish Aid. Mr. Donahue holds a BA degree (Honours) in French and German, as well as an MA degree in German, from the National University of Ireland.
BACKGROUND

In the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugee and migrants, entitled “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, member states have agreed – in paragraph 82 – to “... support early childhood education for refugee children”. This panel discussion will share the perspectives of early childhood development, policy and programming experts on how to link emerging knowledge from bio-behavioural and environmental sciences with programme practices that seek to protect young children, caretakers and their communities from the consequences of war and violent conflict.

AGENDA

OPENING

13:00-13:15

Rima Salah, Chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) and Adjunct Faculty Member at the Child Study Centre, Yale University

H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Horacio Sevilla, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

PANEL DISCUSSION

13:15-14:00

Moderator

Friedrich W. Affolter, UNICEF NYHQ

Panelists

Leila Zerrougui, United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

Ghassan Issa, Director, Arab Network for Early Childhood Development

James Leckman, Director of Research for the Yale Child Study Center

ANWARUL K. Chowdhury, Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

Q&A

CLOSING

14:00

H.E. Mr. David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nation

LUNCH RECEPTION

SPEAKERS

OPENING

Rima Salah is member of the Faculty of The Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine. She served as a Member of the United Nations High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. She also is a former Deputy Executive Representative of UNICEF. Dr. Salah has received many awards of distinction, including the French Legion of Honor.

Maudlin Momen is the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. Previous assignments include ambassadorships to Japan and Italy. Masud Bin Momen holds an MSS in Economics from Dhaka University, and an MA in International Relations from Tufts.

Horacio Sevilla Borja is the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations. Previous assignments include ambassadorships in Europe and Latin America. Mr. Sevilla was educated in Law and International Relations at Central University of Ecuador in Quito; he was fellow at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University.

MODERATOR

Friedrich W. Affolter is an Education Expert for Risk-Informed Programming at UNICEF NY. He also served as education cluster lead in Sudan; as victim empowerment capacity development expert with UNODC South Africa, and as community mobilization training advisor for the Government of Afghanistan’s National Solidary Programme.

PANELISTS

Leila Zerrougui was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the Under Secretary-General level in September 2012. In this capacity, she serves as a moral voice and independent advocate to build awareness about the rights and protection of children affected by armed conflict.