



## Meet the Regional Commissions New York Office Team



### Rosa Malango

#### Director

Ms. Malango was appointed by the Secretary-General as the new Director of Regional Commissions New York Office effective 22 June 2021. She brings to the position over 27 years of experience in development and humanitarian affairs, including responsibility for assignments in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva.

Prior to this appointment, from January 2019 to June 2021, Ms. Malango served as United Nations Resident Coordinator & Designated Official for Security for the Republic of Uganda as part of the UN reform.

From 2016-2018, Ms. Malango served as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Uganda; from 2015 to 2016, she successfully shadowed the UNRC/DO in Guatemala as part of the Inter-Agency Women leadership program, for this purpose she served as UNRCO Head, Resident Coordinator's Office, Guatemala. From 2005-2015 she worked with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as Chief, External Relations and Partnerships Section, after serving as Chief a.i., Africa II Section in New York. From 2002 to 2005, Ms. Malango worked in Côte d'Ivoire with the World Food Programme as Regional Programme Adviser and Deputy Regional Coordinator (2003-2005) and with OCHA as Regional Programme Coordinator (2002-2003). From 1995-1998 she was based in Angola as OCHA's Chief Information Officer after working as Technical Adviser on Demobilization & Reintegration. From July – Dec 1994 she worked with UNICEF, Luanda, Angola. She speaks French, Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Before joining the UN, Ms. Malango worked in the private sector in Nigeria as an Advertising Practitioner with STB & Associates Ltd and in the Embassy of Argentina in Lagos. Ms. Malango holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mass Communication from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. She also has a Certificate, from the Strategic Leaders Program, Navigating and leading in a new world, U.ACADEMY BY PRESENCING INSTITUTE (2020) as well as an *Executive Education Certificate, Emerging Leaders, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, (2015)*

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## **Yera Ortiz de Urbina**

### **Deputy Director**

Yera Ortiz de Urbina joined the UN in 2018 as Deputy Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO). In her current position, she supports Regional Commissions' coordination in diverse policy areas and works to identify opportunities for building and deepening partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Yera brings to the UN over 20 years of experience in international relations and multilateral affairs, with a focus on intergovernmental policy coordination and sustainable development governance. Before joining the UN, Yera served as Permanent Observer of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to the UN. Prior to that, Yera was posted at the Spanish Permanent Mission and then the European Union Delegation to the UN. A career diplomat, she has also served in Irak and Jordan and held a variety of positions at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission in Brussels.

She is a firm believer in the power of multilateral cooperation and quiet diplomacy to respond to today's global challenges. And, whenever she feels stuck, she tries to follow a former US President's advice and keep it about the work. "Because if you can keep it about the work, you'll always have a path. There's always something to be done".

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## **Ashebir Desalegn**

### **Programme Officer**

Ashebir joined the RCNYO team in June 2021. He brings with him over 15 years of experience in strategic planning, coordination and resource mobilisation. He is an expert in programme design, monitoring and reporting results.

He has previously worked for the Economic Commission for Africa in the areas of policy coordination, partnerships and resource mobilisation; and for UNESCO in the areas of education policies and planning, education sector response to HIV/AIDS, early childhood education and ICT in education. Prior to that, he has worked at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and University of Bath in the UK on social development research, well-being and quality of life in developing countries.

Ashebir studied educational psychology and medical anthropology. He is passionate about and has a knack for data analytics and visualisation

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## **Ansley Lancourt**

### **Staff Assistant**

Ansley Lancourt joined the Organization over twenty years ago, bringing with him a unique and diverse background in web design, communication and the arts.

Before accepting his position with RCNYO in 2001, Ansley helped develop one of the first UN websites for the Population Division — the Population Information Network (POPIN). He also worked with teams in the Division on Sustainable Development to support high-level events such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (now the High Political Forum on Sustainable Development).

In addition to his most recent technical work maintaining the Office’s online presence, copy editing, and supporting IT functionality, he also serves as the team’s lead administrative support.

Ansley possesses a deep understanding of the role of the Commissions to promote the regional perspective and is ever ready to take on any new challenges to support the achievement of the SDGs.

He is also an accomplished musician, painter, illustrator, published author of a children's book and, most importantly, the proud father of a ten year old daughter.

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## **Maria Dada**

### **Staff Assistant**

Maria joined the RCNYO team in November 2015. She is a lawyer with over 18 years of combined experience in litigation, office management, administrative support and research. Prior to joining the RCNYO, she worked as a Legal Assistant at United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT). She also provided administrative support in the Department of Safety and Security (DSS), the Department of Field Support (DFS) and the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability (SGHLPGS).

She is also a solicitor and Advocate to the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Prior to joining the UN, she worked as a litigation lawyer with DAC Legal Practitioners (now Simmons Cooper LLC), after which she served as the Group Coordinator & Legal Adviser for TVQ Consulting Group, and later, as the Head of Administration & Company Secretary of Satellite Microfinance Bank Limited.

Maria is a Harvard-Certified Persuasive Writer and Public Speaker. She is a Member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) as well as a member of the American Bar Association (ABA). She is people-oriented and very enthusiastic about promoting humanitarian ideas and initiatives.

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