



Ignazio Cassis, Vice-President of the Federal Council and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

For the two years prior to his election to the Federal Council, Mr Cassis, a doctor of medicine, was president of the parliamentary group of the FDP. The Liberals, of which he was a member since his election to the National Council in 2007. His political career began in 2004 with his election to the legislative authority of the Ticino municipality of Collina d'Oro.

Between 2008 and 2012, Mr Cassis held the office of Vice-President of the Swiss Medical Association (FMH). Prior to that, from 1996 he was cantonal physician for the Canton of Ticino. Between 1988 and 1996 he worked as a doctor.

Ignazio Cassis graduated in 1998, specialising in internal medicine and also in prevention and public health. Prior to that, he had obtained a master's degree in public health (MPH) from the University of Geneva in 1996. He graduated from the University of Zurich in 1988 with a degree in human medicine.



Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Peter Maurer is the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (appointed in 2012).

Under his leadership, the ICRC carries out humanitarian work in over 80 countries. As President, Mr Maurer has a unique exposure to today's main armed conflicts and the challenges of assisting and protecting people in need. He travels regularly to the major conflict theatres of the world including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan and Myanmar. As the ICRC's chief diplomat, and through the ICRC's principled, neutral approach, Mr Maurer regularly meets with heads of states and other high-level officials as well as parties to conflict, to find solutions to pressing humanitarian concerns.

Mr Maurer has served as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Switzerland as well as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. As a diplomat he worked on issues relating to human security, including mine action, small arms and light weapons as well as on the responsibility of states in the implementation of international humanitarian law.



Federico Villegas, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic in Geneva

Ambassador Federico Villegas is a lawyer and career diplomat. He entered with honors the Argentine Foreign Service in 1993. He was appointed Permanent Representative of Argentina to the International Organizations in Geneva in March 2020, after being Ambassador in Mozambique since 2016.

At the Foreign Ministry, he was first desk for disarmament, chemical weapons and international security issues (1993-1995) and then twice Director-General of Human Rights (2005-2007 and 2012-2015). Abroad, he was Alternate Representative to MERCOSUR and ALADI in Uruguay (2008-2011) and Alternate Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington (1995-2003).



Mr. Heo Wookgu, Director, Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification (MAKRI), Republic of Korea

After more than 30 years in the Republic of Korea Army, Director Heo Wookgu retired as Brigadier General and took office as MAKRI's Director in February 2019. Under his leadership, approximately 100,000 soldiers are dispatched all over South Korea to perform remains recovery operations.

The inter-Korea negotiation in 2019 opened gates for DMZ Arrowhead operation, and MAKRI is redoubling its efforts with the state of the art facilities and technology to put a name to the recovered remains.

When remains are adjudicated as UNC believed-to-be remains, MAKRI coordinates with the authorities of the respective nations for repatriation, as well as internment at United Nations National Memorial Cemetery Korea.

Every year, MAKRI repatriates Chinese remains according to humanitarian spirit and efforts.



Nadia Isler, Director, SDG Lab

Nadia is the Co-founder and Director of the SDG Lab. She has a long career in diplomacy and international development with field experience in bilateral cooperation and in multilateral affairs.

Nadia started her career with Médecins Sans Frontières and the Swiss Red Cross before joining the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation where she served for several years in Eastern Africa working primarily in the field of public health. She then joined the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomat where she acted as Deputy Head of Development Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York, before leading on development affairs and the SDGs at the Swiss Mission to the UN in Geneva.



António Vitorino, Director-General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

He served as European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, from 1999 to 2004. Prior to joining the European Commission, António Vitorino served as Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, from 1995 to 1997.

His solid political background includes tenures as Portugal's State Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs, member of the Government of Macau in charge of Administration and Justice, member of the Portuguese Parliament, member of the European Parliament.

Aside from the extensive political and public service experience, António Vitorino is a fond promoter of civil society and private sector engagement; he has always been engaged in promoting ethic employment of migrants, as well as consistently advocating against inequalities, discrimination, violence and social exclusion endured by migrants, thus providing critical contributions to the development of comprehensive and inclusive public policies on migration.



Jagan Chapagain, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Jagan Chapagain is the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). He has extensive experience and a broad knowledge of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, having begun his career as a youth volunteer at the Nepal Red Cross, advocating for and representing community voices.

Mr. Chapagain has spent more than 25 years with IFRC, working across Europe and Asia. Prior to becoming Secretary-General, he was Under Secretary-General for Programmes and Operations, Chief of Staff and Director of the Asia Pacific region where he provided leadership in responding to large-scale humanitarian crises and in building resilient communities in partnership with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and external partners across the region.



Dr. Asha Mohammed, Secretary-General, Kenya Red Cross Society

Dr Asha Mohammed is the Secretary General of Kenya Red Cross Society. She has over 25 years diverse experience working within Humanitarian and Government institutions. She has served in different capacities within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement including; Movement Partnerships Advisor for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva, Head of Operations for International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Africa Zone office in Johannesburg, Head of Eastern Africa zone office in Nairobi and Deputy Secretary General and Head of Programmes in Kenya Red Cross, among others.

She has been instrumental in reshaping the strategic direction and growth of the KRCS Programming and institutional strengthening especially in building strong Red Cross branches as the fundamental units of delivering the services of the National Society.



Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR

Filippo Grandi became the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 2016. He was elected by the UN General Assembly to serve a five-year term, until 31 December 2020. In November 2020 the General Assembly extended the High Commissioner's mandate until 30 June 2023.

Before being elected High Commissioner, Grandi had been engaged in international cooperation for over 30 years, focusing on refugee and humanitarian work. He served as Commissioner-General of the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, from 2010 to 2014, after having been the organization's Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. Prior to that, Grandi served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan, following a long career first with NGOs and later with UNHCR in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and at the organization's Geneva headquarters.



**Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights,
OHCHR**

Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions (2006 – 2010 and 2014 – 2018). She was the first female president of Chile. She also served as Health Minister (2000-2002) as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister (2002 – 2004).

During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. Among her many achievements, she contributed to education and tax reforms, and the creation of the National Institute for Human Rights and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, and the approval of Civil Union Act legislation.

In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women, an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of women and girls internationally. Economic empowerment and ending violence against women were two of her priorities during her tenure. She has recently pledged to be a Gender Champion, committing to advance gender equality in OHCHR and in international fora.



Livia Leu, State-Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

Livia Leu was born in Zurich and her place of origin is Truns in the canton of Graubünden. She holds a degree in law and was admitted to the bar in the canton of Zurich.

After joining the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1989, she completed her diplomatic service training in Bern, Paris and Geneva.

She subsequently held various positions, including in the International Organisations Division, the Swiss embassy in Cairo and the Americas Division and the Africa/Middle East Division, which she headed as ambassador. From 2009 to 2013, she headed the Swiss embassy in Tehran, which also represents US interests.

From 2018 to October 2020, Livia Leu served as Swiss ambassador to France and Monaco. In October 2020, the Federal Council appointed her as FDFA state secretary and chief negotiator with the European Union.