



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The 10th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations**

### ***Promoting Well-being in the 21st Century: Psychological Contributions for Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges***

**New York, New York, April 7, 2017** - Psychologists who represent NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) accredited at the United Nations will host the *10th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations* on Thursday, 20 April.

The theme of this year's conference is "***Promoting Well-being in the 21st Century: Psychological Contributions for Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges.***" The topic was chosen to align with the inclusion of well-being in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 that outlines the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to demonstrate ways in which theory, research, and practice in the psychology of well-being can increase the welfare of individuals globally to facilitate achievement of the SDGs, and to address the challenges of contemporary social, economic, and environmental systems.

The conference will be held at UN New York headquarters, in Conference Room 4, with entry at 45<sup>th</sup> Street on First Avenue. The event is from 3:00PM to 6:00PM.

*Psychology Day at the United Nations* is an annual event sponsored by psychology NGO organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and/or affiliated with the Department of Public Information (DPI). The event offers UN staff, ambassadors and diplomats, NGOs, members of the private and public sectors, students, invited experts, guests, media and other stakeholders, the opportunity to learn how psychological science and practice contributes to the UN agenda, and to exchange ideas and establish partnerships on global issues.

"This year celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Psychology Day at the UN and the culmination of advocacy efforts to include mental health and well-being into the UN agenda, demonstrating how psychologists are important stakeholders actively engaged in contributing to the implementation, monitoring, and achievement of the sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 3: Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages," said Dr. Sonia Suchday, [co-chair](#) of Psychology Day at the UN 2017, a UN NGO representative for the International Union of Psychological Sciences, and chair of the Department of Psychology at Pace University.

Opening remarks will be made by H.E. Ambassador Rubén Ignacio Zamora, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations and by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto, a public health physician who served as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations. Ambassador Otto partnered with the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the UN to insure the inclusion of the promotion of mental health and well-being in the Sustainable Development Goals.

"The role of psychologists in partnering with high-level government delegates to successfully advocate about mental health and well-being being recognized in the global agenda is a major step forward for all those who are always at the margin, often left behind as well as for everyone in the world," said Ambassador Otto. "The achievement of well-being is not only interlinked with many

other goals of the agenda, including eradicating poverty, restoring oceans health, combatting climate change, stable and peaceful society but is at the very core of the 2030 Agenda. It is ‘the heart’ of sustainable development,” he added.

The speakers focus on the three pillars of the UN Agenda 2030. **Minu Hemmati, PhD**, addressing the environmental pillar, is a psychologist specializing in sustainable development, climate change and gender issues, and a Senior Associate at the MSP Institute eV, an international charitable association based in Berlin, Germany, promoting multistakeholder processes. Psychologist **Ann Masten, PhD**, addressing the economic pillar, is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development at the Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota who studies competence, risk and resilience in development. Addressing the social pillar is psychologist **Doug Oman, PhD**, who is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley whose work focuses on occupational health and spirituality. Panelist **Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali, MD**, is a Senior Advisor and Focal Point for NCDs at UN Women.

“The presentations this year affirm the intersection of psychological science and practice with the economic, environmental and social pillars of the global agenda, showing how inter-connected well-being is to the achievement of the sustainable development goals” said Ayorkor Gaba, PsyD, Senior Project Director at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, and UN NGO representative of the American Psychological Association who is co-chairing the event.

Psychologists representing NGOs accredited at the UN come from varied specialties, including clinical, educational, social, developmental, counseling, community and industrial/organizational psychology. They participate in committees and working groups on various topics (e.g., the family, migration, technology, human rights, climate change and disaster recovery) and at invited high-level meetings; present side events at UN Commissions (e.g., for Social Development and on the Status of Women); design, implement and evaluate field projects related to the global goals (e.g., poverty eradication in Haiti and women’s empowerment in Africa).

*Admission to the conference is free. A reception (for a small fee) following the session will be held at the ONE UN hotel at 1 UN Plaza, on East 44th Street between 1-2 Avenues.*

*For up-to-date information regarding registration for the conference and reception, please visit <http://unpsychologyday.org> or contact: [unpsychday@gmail.com](mailto:unpsychday@gmail.com). Non-UN pass holders must register in order to obtain a Special events Ticket.*

*Psychology Day 2017 can also be found on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/UNPsychologyDay>, and Twitter: [#UNPsychologyDay](https://twitter.com/UNPsychologyDay) [#PsychDayUN2017](https://twitter.com/UNPsychologyDay)*