
Session I: April 21, 2021: Moderator & Speaker Bios**Moderator:**

Robert Downing, Business '84, CBS Alumni Club Leader, South Florida; Partner, Greenberg Traurig, P.A. Miami; Houston

Robert J. Downing has more than 35 years' experience in domestic and international business transactions. He has represented international conglomerates on corporate structuring matters and foreign direct investment in multiple jurisdictions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. He focuses on corporate, mergers and acquisitions and finance matters, with particular expertise in energy, infrastructure and project development. Robert formerly was a legal advisor to, and served on the Board of Directors of, a Saudi Arabian petrochemical company. He handles a wide range of joint development agreements, construction contracts, EPC contracts, and operating and maintenance arrangements. Robert served as Associate General Counsel at Duke Energy International, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, with investments throughout South and Central America and Senior Counsel at the Cisneros Group with operations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Asia/Pacific. He holds an LL.M. in Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources Law and is Board Certified in International Law by The Florida Bar. Robert serves as an Adjunct Professor of Energy Law at Florida International University School of Law and is President of the Columbia Business School Alumni Association for South Florida.

Ambassador Niermala Badrising, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname to the U.S.**Professional Experience:**

- **April 2017 - To date:** Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Suriname to the United States of America & Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS)
- **August 2015 - February 2017:** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname
- **November 2011 - August 2015:** Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the Organization of American States (OAS) and entrusted with responsibilities for the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)
- **September 2010 - November 2011:** Senior Advisor for International Affairs at the Office of the President of the Republic of Suriname
- **October 2008 - August 2010:** Chief Coordinator for International Affairs at the Office of the President of the Republic of Suriname

(November 2008 - July 2010: Special responsibilities for international environmental diplomacy Suriname(including forest preservation & climate change issues)
- **June 2009 – July 2009:** Co-Faculty for Professionals Course “ Processes of International Negotiations” conducted for Executives & Senior Officials by the Institute for International Relations of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname & the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

- **August 2007 - September 2008:** Research Associate at the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University
 - **January 1998 - August 2006:** Chief Coordinator for International Affairs at the Office of the President of the Republic of Suriname
 - **January 1996 - January 1998:** Head of the United Nations Section, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname
 - **November 1990 - December 1995:** Desk Officer, Department of International Organizations Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for United Nations and its Specialized Organizations
 - **November 1989 - November 1990:** Desk Officer with responsibilities for human rights and democracy issues in the context of United Nations and OAS human rights reporting
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The Honorable Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname

Ambassador Albert Ramchand Ramdin has over 20 years of experience in international negotiation, multilateral diplomacy, development assistance, public policy development and execution, strategic trade and business facilitation, project management, fundraising and key expertise in competitiveness.

He has worked on institutional reform and restructuring at government, non-government levels and in the private sector to achieve tangible solutions and results. He has an extensive network of contacts with highest and relevant levels of Government, private sector, civil society and institutions in the Americas.

After completing his second term at the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2015 he decided to return to the Republic of Suriname, his birth place, to contribute to the further development of the Nation. In that regard he became the advisor of the newly installed Minister of Foreign Affairs on a multitude of strategic policy matters, and subsequently joined the private sector with an international operating USA based mining company.

Since his return to Suriname Ambassador Ramdin has been involved in several activities then as well, ranging from the contributions to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, chair of the mining Group in the Trade and Business organization as well as in support of the political party Voortuitstrevende Hervormings Partij (VHP), Progressive Reformist Party

Ambassador Riyad Insanally, Ambassador of Co-Operative Republic of Guyana to the U.S.

Riyad Insanally has been, since September 2016, Guyana's Eighth Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the USA and Fourth Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. He has been a career diplomat for over 30 years, specializing in multilateral diplomacy, regional integration issues and Latin America-Caribbean relations. He received Guyana's third highest award, the Cacique's Crown of Honor (CCH), in the 2019 National Honors, for "long and distinguished service in the field of diplomacy and international relations".

Ambassador Insanally currently serves as the Chair of the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors Committee on Energy and has also been Chair of the Caucus. He holds MA and MPhil degrees from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He is fluent in English and Spanish, and proficient in French.

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, CEO/Chief Investment Officer, GO-Invest, Guyana

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop is the Chief Executive Officer of the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), which falls under the Office of the President. In this role, he leads efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment and to promote Local Content Investment. A seasoned senior executive with experience across many fields of expertise, from business to economics and politics, Dr. Ramsaroop is also a decorated US Air Force officer, who saw service during the first Gulf War. He holds two Associate degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management from Park University, Missouri, and MBA from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a PhD in Management and Public Policy.

Michael Claps, Vice President, Global Account (Key Account, Exxon Mobil), Technip FMC, Houston, Texas

Bio forthcoming.

Dana Marshall, President, Transnational Strategy Group, Washington, D.C.

Dana Marshall is founder and president of [Transnational Strategy Group LLC](#), an international business and government affairs consultancy headquartered in Washington, D.C. with professionals based in the U.S., Guyana and capitals around the world.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Marshall was senior advisor for international business and foreign policy to several U.S.-based international law firms. During his career with the U.S. government, Mr. Marshall served in a number of international economic and national security positions in the White House; the Departments of State and Commerce; office of the U.S. Trade Representative; the Senate and House of Representatives and at several American embassies abroad including the in U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels as well as assignments in Latin America and Australia.

Mr. Marshall holds graduate degrees in international business and energy and resource economics and an undergraduate degree in physics. He chairs or serves on several private-sector advisory committees to the U.S. government and in trade and political organizations. He has also been an adjunct faculty member at American University in Washington, teaching a seminar on global business and international economic policy.

Mark Byone, PhD, Business Advisor, Guyana, Transnational Strategy Group LLC

Dr. Mark Byone served as the inaugural Director of the Guyana Department of Energy where he oversaw the advent of first oil, more than US\$20 billion into the sector and crafted the marketing strategy for Guyana's first three parcels of crude banking in excess of US\$140 million in the Sovereign Wealth Fund. He was also Executive Director of the Private Sector Commission in Guyana in which he managed a team of professionals undertaking work mainly in the areas of manufacturing, agro-processing, services and trade; and provided guidance to a diverse private sector clientele including manufacturers, bankers, and insurers, and other private sector organizations.

He was the inaugural Director of the School of Earth and Environmental Studies at the University of Guyana. Prior to his government service, Dr. Byone was Assistant Executive Director and Senior Resource Economist of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) playing an integral role in the Centre's accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and securing over US\$80 million for the region in climate financing.

Dr. Byone holds a Ph.D. degree in Resources & Trade Economics from the University of East Anglia, M.S. degree in Resource Management from the University of Edinburgh and B.A. in Geography and Economics from the University of Guyana. He has also received certificates from the Harvard University and the St. Georges University. He is widely published on issues related to resource economics, food security, trade reforms and sustainable economic development. He resides in Georgetown, Guyana.

Jordan Cowman, Esq., Partner, Greenberg Traurig, Dallas, Texas

Jordan W. Cowman Co-Chairs the firm's Labor & Employment Practice's International Employment, Immigration & Workforce Strategies group. A long-time U.S. business representative to the United Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland, Jordan is sought after by businesses when issues arise concerning international and cross-border employment matters, corporate social responsibility, international corporate campaigns and other international labor and employment matters that arise. He has assisted clients with business combinations, merger and acquisition due diligence, and has advised clients on supply chain issues and the eradication of forced labor. Jordan is sought after by clients around the world for insight on their worldwide operations and direction on matters related to managing a global workforce. Jordan has experience tackling legal issues in 50+ countries, including Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. In the U.S., Jordan handles management-side labor and employment law advice, counseling, and litigation for a broad range of organizations. During more than two decades of practice, he has gained a national reputation for his practical, strategic approach to employment law issues.

Session II: April 28, 2021: Moderator & Speaker Bios

Moderator:

Peter Tesarek, Business '89, CBS Alumni Club Leader, Houston; Senior Manager, SAP-ERP, Technip, FMC, Houston

Bio forthcoming.

Mr. Annand Jagesar, Acting Managing Director of the State Oil company, StaatsOlie

Mr. Annand Jagesar, Downstream Director of Staatsolie, holds a bachelor's degree in business economics and a Master's degree in Business Administration, specialization Corporate Strategy and Economic Policy. Prior to becoming the Deputy Director of the Downstream operations in 2015, Mr. Jagesar has held several other positions at Staatsolie including Deputy Director Business Development from 2011 to 2015, Manager Corporate Planning from 2008 to 2011, Manager Finance Administration from 2001 to 2008, Coordinator Management Information from 1998 to 2001 and Manager FA-Projects from 1996 to 1998. Mr. Jagesar is a Member of the Supervisory Board of Assuria N.V. Mr. Jagesar is also the Chairman of the Association for the Securities Trade in Suriname and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Academic Hospital Paramaribo.

Tom Fauria, Former Country Manager for Kosmos in Suriname

Mr. Fauria retired from the O&G industry in 2020 after a career of over 30 years in the upstream (exploration) sector. Just prior to retirement, he spent over four years in Paramaribo, Suriname, as Country Manager for Kosmos Energy. In this role he was responsible for all in-country activities related to the company's exploration efforts in two deepwater offshore blocks. Previously, he held various management and technical roles with Kosmos, Repsol, Hess, Triton Energy, and Conoco. Mr. Fauria holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Science degree in geophysics from Purdue University.

Ambassador (ret.) Ned Nolan, Senior Advisor for Suriname and Immediate Past U.S. Ambassador to Suriname, Transnational Strategy Group, LLC, Washington, D.C.

Ambassador (ret.) Edwin R. ("Ned") Nolan was the past previous U.S. Ambassador to Suriname (2015-2018) and TSG's Senior Advisor for Suriname. Ambassador Nolan is a 38-year veteran of the US Foreign Service. In addition to Suriname, Ned served as Charge d'Affaires in the Netherlands, Deputy Chief of Mission in Cyprus, Political Minister-Counselor in Ottawa, Canada, and as Deputy Director of State's Western Hemisphere Bureau Policy Planning Office. Other assignments included, Ireland, Norway and Sweden, as

well as in the Secretary of Defense's Office at the Pentagon. Ned is a graduate of Boston College and carried out graduate studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University."

Robert J. Downing, Business '84, Partner, Greenberg Traurig, P.A. Miami; Houston

Robert J. Downing has more than 35 years' experience in domestic and international business transactions. He has represented international conglomerates on corporate structuring matters and foreign direct investment in multiple jurisdictions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. He focuses on corporate, mergers and acquisitions and finance matters, with particular expertise in energy, infrastructure and project development. Robert formerly was a legal advisor to, and served on the Board of Directors of, a Saudi Arabian petrochemical company. He handles a wide range of joint development agreements, construction contracts, EPC contracts, and operating and maintenance arrangements. Robert served as Associate General Counsel at Duke Energy International, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, with investments throughout South and Central America and Senior Counsel at the Cisneros Group with operations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Asia/Pacific. He holds an LL.M. in Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources Law and is Board Certified in International Law by The Florida Bar. Robert serves as an Adjunct Professor of Energy Law at Florida International University School of Law and is President of the Columbia Business School Alumni Association for South Florida.