



### SPEAKERS BIOS (as of October 8, 2015)

***Ashraf El Nour*** *Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the United Nations @IOMatUN*

Mr. El Nour began his career in 1988 at CARE International, serving as an Assistant Programme Coordinator for the next three years. In 1991, he went on to join IOM, first as Coordinator for Northern Iraq until 1993 and then as their Coordinator of Operations in Mozambique until 1995. Moving to the agency's headquarters in Geneva, he worked as Programmes Coordinator for Migration for Development and Technical Cooperation until 1998, when he became Regional Adviser for Africa and the Middle East until 2001. After working as Senior Recovery Adviser at the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Geneva-based Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Mr. El Nour returned to IOM as Special Assistant with the Office of the Director General from 2006 to 2007. He then served in Kenya as Regional Representative for East and Central Africa, from 2007 to 2012, and as Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa from 2013 until his current appointment. Born in Khartoum in 1963, Mr. El Nour holds a master's degree in political science from Aligarh Muslim University in India.

***Widad Ketfi*** *Journalist, Bondy Blog @widadk*

***Arun Venugopal*** *Reporter & Host of Micropolis, WNYC @arunNYC*

Venugopal is the creator of Micropolis, WNYC's ongoing examination of race and identity. It is an in-depth series that brings into view the unique cultures of New York's ethnically diverse communities. It has explored such issues as the global skin-lightening market, the problems with ethnic sitcoms and the meaning of turbans. Venugopal is also a guest host of Working, a Slate podcast about how Americans do their jobs. He is a regular contributor to NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered. He has appeared on PBS Newshour, Countdown with Keith Olbermann, On the Media and Studio 360, and has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal* and Salon. His commentary on Indian-American issues has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Post* and the Associated Press. Previously, Venugopal wrote for India Abroad, and served as an editor at the multi-faith website Beliefnet. He lives with his family in Queens.

***John Yearwood*** *World Editor, The Miami Herald; Chairman, International Press Institute North American Committee @john\_yearwood*

Under Yearwood's leadership, the World Desk of *The Miami Herald* has won numerous awards, including the Arthur Ross Award for best coverage of Latin America and it was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News for the Haiti earthquake coverage. It has also won recognition from Columbia University, the Overseas Press Club, the American Academy of Diplomacy and the King of Spain. Yearwood's legacy at the Herald includes conceiving and directing the landmark "A Rising Voice" series that reported on the empowerment and civil rights struggle occurring among Afro-Latin Americans. Yearwood is a regular guest on National Public Radio, and local and national television programs, including the Tavis Smiley Show. During the course of his career, he has met with countless world leaders ranging from Nelson Mandela and Margaret Thatcher to President Obama and Jordan's King Abdullah. Prior to joining the Miami Herald, Yearwood was National/International Editor at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Texas. Before that, he spent two years in Trinidad as founding publisher/editor of

IBIS, a general lifestyle magazine. He also spent 10 years at The Dallas Morning News, where he reported from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.