



Democracy Roundtable 2008 **Biographical sketches of speakers, panellists and moderators¹**

Opening addresses

Vidar Helgesen

Vidar Helgesen is the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). Vidar Helgesen, a Norwegian national, was appointed Norway's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in October 2001 and remained in this position until October 2005. During this period, Vidar Helgesen led Norway's efforts in peace talks between the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers. Born in 1968, Vidar Helgesen studied and trained as a lawyer. Politically active from his youth, he has long been involved in Norway's Conservative Party. From 1998 to 2001, he acted as Special Adviser to the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva. In 2007 he was nominated as member of the UN Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group.

Rajeev Bhargava

Rajeev Bhargava is Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies - CSDS. He was formerly Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University and between 2001 and 2005, Professor of Political Theory and Indian Political Thought and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.

Rajeev Bhargava obtained his BA degree in Economics from the University of Delhi and M.Phil and D.Phil from Oxford University. He has been a Faculty fellow in Ethics at Harvard University, CR Parekh Fellow at the CSDS, Delhi, Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Bristol, Senior Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, Visiting Fellow of the British Academy, and was the Asia Chair at Sciences Po, Paris in the summer of 2006. He was the first Distinguished Resident Scholar at the Institute of Religion, Public Life and Culture, Columbia University and Visiting Professor at Queens University, Belfast, 2008. His publications include *Individualism in Social Science* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1992), *Secularism and its Critics* ed. (OUP, New Delhi, 1998), *Multiculturalism, Liberalism and Democracy* (ed. with A. Bagchi and R. Sudarshan, OUP 1999), *Transforming India* (ed. with Francine Frankel et. al, OUP 2000), *Civil Society, Public Sphere and Citizenship* (ed. with H. Reifeld, Sage, 2005), *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution* (ed. OUP, Delhi, 2008), *Social Justice* (ed. with M. Dusche and H. Reifeld, Sage, 2008) and *Political Theory: An introduction* (ed. with Ashok Acharya, Pearson, 2008). He is currently working on a book on Secularism. He has contributed to several international books and journals including the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Oxford Handbook of Political Theory. He contributes regularly to Open Democracy. He was a consultant to the UNDP Report on Cultural Liberty and Diversity.

¹ Please kindly note that some of these sketches could not have been checked with and approved by the persons concerned. We therefore apologize for possible inaccuracies. Concerned participants are kindly invited to submit corrections to the organizers so that they can be taken into account in the Round Table Report.

Jairam Ramesh

Jairam Ramesh is Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Power, and Congress Member of Parliament representing the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha. He is also a member of the National Advisory Council. He helped put together the National Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) that came to power in May 2004. Earlier, he was part of the Congress election strategy team for the 2004 Lok Sabha elections. He was Secretary in the All India Congress Committee - AICC, formerly Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka Planning Board (2000-2002), former member of the Rajasthan Development Council (1999-2003) and former Economic Advisor to the government of Chattisgarh (2001-2003).

Jairam Ramesh was earlier Advisor to the Finance Minister during 1996-98, Advisor to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission 1992-94 and Advisor to the Prime Minister 1991. He has served in the Planning Commission, Ministry of Industry and other economic departments of the central government. He has been entrusted with numerous special assignments. He has authored a number of key government reports in areas as diverse as energy, technology, capital goods, industrial policy and telecom. He was a key player in the team that formulated and implemented India's economic reforms in 1991 and 1997. He studied public management at Carnegie Mellon University during 1975-77. He thereafter spent a year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) studying technology policy, economics, engineering and management as part of the newly-established inter-disciplinary technology policy programme.

Panel 1: Development – An Ideal? An electoral slogan? A *sine qua non* of democracy?

Peter Ronald deSouza (panel moderator)

Peter Ronald deSouza is the Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. Prior to this he was Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies where he was Co-Director of the *Lokniti* programme on Comparative Democracy. He has been engaged with unpacking puzzles of democracy and has written on panchayati raj and the 'second wind' of democracy in India, party hopping and the party system in India, electoral violence and its sources, dalits and discrimination, trust and political institutions, and freedom from fear and human security. As a political theorist his abiding interest is on threats to freedom of expression in democratic polities and on issues of righting historical wrong. In addition to numerous articles he has edited two books: *Contemporary India: Transitions* (Sage, 2000) and (with E.Sridharan) *India's Political Parties* (Sage, 2006). He has recently been one of the three principal investigators of a five nation study published by Oxford University Press on the State of Democracy in South Asia. (2006)

Professor deSouza taught in the Political Science department at Goa University for 16 years. He was head from 1996 to 2002. He was a member of the IPSA's RC on Political Philosophy and Political Sociology, and was a member of the University Grants Commission's expert panel on Political Science. He was awarded the British Council Visitorship to the UK in 1992 where he made presentations at several universities. He was Visiting Professor at Birkbeck College, London University Visiting scholar at the Taubman Center, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He was part of the team that did a review of Social Science Research Capacity in South Asia for SSRC New York. He has led a study on Youth Attitudes in India for the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and on Electoral Violence and Conflict Resolution in South Asia and Southeast Asia for the UNDP.

Professor deSouza has been a consultant to the World Bank on rural decentralization and on Dalits, Discrimination, and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship, to Ford Foundation on local government in India, to International IDEA in preparing its handbook on Democracy Assessment, to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in preparing their Handbook on Parliament in the Twenty First Century, to ICNRD-5 in its Democracy Assessment of Mongolia, and to UNDP in its study on electoral violence. Since he comes from Goa he is also deeply engaged with the transformations taking place there especially those concerning issues of identity and community life.

Pranab Bardhan

Pranab Bardhan is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a Cambridge University PhD and has been on the faculty of the MIT, Delhi School of Economics, and the Indian Statistical Institute. He was the editor of the Journal of Development Economics for 1985-2003. His research is in the general areas of political economy of development, institutional economics, poverty and globalization. He is the author of 11 books and numerous journal articles, and the co-editor of 12 books. His most recent books include *Scarcity, Conflicts, and Cooperation* (MIT Press, 2005), and *Globalization and Egalitarian Redistribution* (Princeton University Press, 2006). For more details of his work go to:

<http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/bardhan/bardhan.htm>

Maria Amparo Casar

Maria Amparo Casar has been a researcher and a faculty teacher at the Political Studies Department of the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, AC (CIDE, Economics Research and Teaching Centre), since 1979. She has served as Director of the Political Studies Division, External Advisor on Political Affairs to the Advisors' Committee of the City Hall of Mexico City, a member of the Linking Committee of the Congress, first class researcher of the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores researchers' catalogue since 1998 and as the advisors' Coordinator to the Secretary of State, from 1 December 2001 to 1 June 2005. She has a Master's degree and a PhD from the King's College of the University of Cambridge.

Larry Diamond

Larry Diamond is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He is also founding co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy* and co-director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy. His research and policy work mainly concern the development and functioning of democracy around the world, and US and international policies to promote democracy and support human development. He has also advised the U.S. Agency for International Development (whose 2002 report, *Foreign Aid in the National Interest*, he co-authored), the World Bank, the United Nations, the State Department, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations. His book *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World* (Times Books, 2008) explores the sources of global democratic progress and stress and the future prospects of democracy.

Diamond is professor by courtesy of political science and sociology at Stanford University, where he teaches courses on democratic development and coordinates the democracy program of the Centre on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. In 2007, he was named 'Teacher of the Year' by the Associated Students of Stanford University for teaching that "transcends political and ideological barriers."

During the first three months of 2004, Diamond served as a senior adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad. Among his other published works are

Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq (Times Books, 2005), *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation* (1999), *Promoting Democracy in the 1990s* (1995), and *Class, Ethnicity, and Democracy in Nigeria* (1989). His recent edited books include *Islam and Democracy in the Middle East* (with Marc F. Plattner and Daniel Brumberg), *Assessing the Quality of Democracy* (with Leonardo Morlino), *The State of India's Democracy* (with Marc Plattner and Sumit Ganguly), and *Democracy in Developing Countries*, with Juan Linz and Seymour Martin Lipset.

Gloria Somolekae

Gloria Somolekae is a citizen of Botswana. She is a career academic who has taught at the University of Botswana for almost 18 years. She taught development management and policy analysis, and published a number of articles on a wide range of subjects including on governance, democracy and elections management, foreign aid management and more. She also co-edited two books and contributed chapters in several. She has served as a consultant both for the Botswana government and for a number of international agencies and focused mostly on the way performance is managed in the public service. She has been an activist in the women's movement and in the democracy area. She led the democracy project at the University of Botswana for ten years, conducting research, opinion polls and has served as an election observer in Botswana and in other countries in Southern Africa. Her involvement in these areas has also included serving in boards both within her country and in the region. She has served in the Board of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), is serving currently in the Board of the Election Institute of Southern Africa, (EISA) for example, and has served as a director in the Botswana Diamond Valuing Company (BDVC) board of directors. She served her country also in government-appointed commissions, including being the chairperson of Botswana's Long Term Vision 2016. She now currently works as a program director for the WK Kellogg Foundation based in the Africa office in Pretoria where she oversees the Kellogg Program in Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Panel 2: Room for politics: Democratizing national ownership of development

Javeed Alam (panel moderator)

Javeed Alam is the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. Before that he was a visiting Senior fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies from Himachal Pradesh University. Among his best known publications are *Domination and Dissent: Peasants and Politics*, *India: Living with Modernity* and *Who Wants Democracy?* He also taught at Osmania University in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Akwasi Osei-Adjei

Akwasi Osei-Adjei is Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana. Prior to his current appointment, he served as Deputy Minister and also as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry. He began his active political career in 1992 when he was elected as a parliamentary candidate of the New Patriotic Party. He was also a member of the Young Executives' Forum of the New Patriotic Party and now serves as a member of the NPP National Council. Before his current political career, Akwasi Osei-Adjei served in various private sector capacities. He trained as Accountant and holds the Party IV certification of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. He also holds a Master of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of De Montford, Leicester, UK. Akwasi Osei-Adjei was born in Kumasi on 27 December, 1949. He is married with seven children and, for his hobby, enjoys sports and music.

François-Xavier De Donnea

François-Xavier De Donnea is Minister of State (Member of the Crown Council). He is also member of the Belgian House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, he heads the Belgian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and he is the Vice-President and former President of the Belgian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He is also Chairman of MEDEA (Research Institute on Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue), member of the Board of the Royal Institute for International Relations (Belgium) and member of the Strategic Council of the "Université Saint Joseph", Beirut, Lebanon. He is Professor Emeritus of the University of Louvain. He has also been Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, member of the Belgian Parliament and Minister of Defence in Belgium. Furthermore he has been a member of the European Parliament and President of the EU Council of Ministers on Research during the Belgian presidency of July-December 2001. He has a Bachelor of Economics and of Applied Economics from the University of Louvain, an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Aruna Roy

Aruna Roy is a recipient of Magsaysay award - valued as the Asian Nobel prize - for community leadership and international understanding. Aruna Roy was an Indian Administrative Services - IAS officer until 1974. She resigned from the IAS to join the Social Work and Research Center in Tilonia, Rajasthan, which had been set up by her husband Sanjit Roy. She worked at the SWRC until 1983, then moved to Devdoondri in 1990 and set up the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathana. The MKSS is a peasant and workers organization which has built a grassroots movement, triggering broad debate and a nationwide demand for the public's right to scrutinize official records. They succeeded in first getting the Rajasthani Right to Information Act passed in 2000. Aruna Roy was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay award for Community Leadership and International Understanding, along with Arputham, the President of the National Slumdwellers' Federation.

Panel 3: Democracy and Development – The impact of globalization

Nivedita Menon (panel moderator)

Nivedita Menon is Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Delhi University. She writes with a feminist perspective on political theory and Indian politics. Her recent books are an edited volume *Sexualities* (2007), Women Unlimited Delhi and Zed Books London; *Power and Contestation. India after 1989* (2007) Zed Books London, co-authored with Aditya Nigam; *Recovering Subversion, Feminist Politics beyond the Law* (2004) Permanent Black, Delhi and University of Illinois Press.

Some of her recent papers are "Living with Secularism" in *The Crisis of Secularism in India* eds. Anuradha Dingwaney Needham and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (Duke University Press, 2007); *Nation, Identity, Citizenship. Feminist Critique in Contemporary India* in VR Mehta and Thomas Pantham ed. *Political Ideas in Modern India; Thematic Explorations* (Sage New Delhi 2006); *Between the Burqa and the Beauty Parlour? Globalization, Cultural Nationalism and Feminist Politics* in Antoinette Burton, Ania Loomba et al eds, *Postcolonial Studies and Beyond* (Duke University Press, 2005); "Universalism Without Foundations?" in *Economy and Society* Volume 31 Number 1 February 2002. Nivedita Menon has been associated on fellowships with institutions in the US, Britain, Sri Lanka and India.

Saskia Sassen

Saskia Sassen is the Lynd Professor of Sociology and Member of The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University. Her new books are *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton University Press 2006) and *A Sociology of Globalization* (W.W.Norton 2007). Other recent books are the third fully updated *Cities in a World Economy* (Sage 2006), the edited *Deciphering the Global* (Routledge 2007), and the co-edited *Digital Formations: New Architectures for Global Order* (Princeton University Press 2005). She has just completed for UNESCO a five-year project on sustainable human settlements with a network of researchers and activists in over 30 countries; it is published as one of the volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* (Oxford, UK: EOLSS Publishers) [<http://www.eolss.net>]. *The Global City* came out in a new fully updated edition in 2001. Her books are translated into sixteen languages. She serves on several editorial boards and is an advisor to several international bodies. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Cities, and chaired the Information Technology and International Cooperation Committee of the Social Science Research Council (USA). Her comments have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek International*, *Open Democracy.net*, *Vanguardia*, *Clarín*, and *The Financial Times*, among others.

Partha Chatterjee

Partha Chatterjee, born 1947, was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta, and took a PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester. He is the former Director and currently Professor of Political Science at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and is also Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University, New York. He is the author of several books, including *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World* (1986), *The Nation and Its Fragments* (1993), *A Possible India* (1999), *A Princely Impostor?* (2001) and *The Politics of the Governed* (2004).

Jorge Heine

Jorge Heine was previously Ambassador of Chile to India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (2003-2007). During his tenure in India, the first presidential visit from Chile took place, a bilateral trade agreement was signed and Chilean exports increased tenfold, to 2.2 billion USD. He also served as Ambassador to South Africa (1994-1999) and as Cabinet Minister in the Chilean government. A lawyer and political scientist, he holds a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University. He has been a Visiting Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford and a Research Associate at The Wilson Center in Washington DC, and a consultant to the United Nations, The Ford Foundation and Oxford Analytica. He is the author, co-author or editor of eight books and some sixty articles in journals and symposium volumes. He writes regularly for the international press and his articles have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The International Herald Tribune*. He was the first ambassador to present credentials to President Nelson Mandela, and for two years in a row Johannesburg's leading newspaper, *The Star*, selected him among the 100 most influential personalities in South Africa.

Najam Sethi

Najam Sethi has a Master's degree from Cambridge University. He is the co-founder and editor of *The Friday Times*, an independent weekly newspaper in Lahore, Pakistan, and of the *Daily Times*. He is the author of the forthcoming book *From Blunderland to Plunderland and Back: Pakistan under Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif 1988-99*. His wife, Jugnu Mohsin, edits the fortnightly *Good Times* and is the managing editor and publisher of *The Friday Times*.

Dinner (17th June) speakers

Shivshankar Menon

Shivshankar Menon has an MA in History from Delhi University and belongs to the 1972 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. Mr. Menon served in Beijing 1974 to 1977, at Headquarters from 1977-79, as Under Secretary in charge of Africa and then, China; he was posted in Vienna as First Secretary from 1979 to 1983 where he was Alternate Governor on the IAEA Board and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Organizations in Vienna. Thereafter, Mr. Menon served as Director in the Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai from 1983 to 1986, again in Beijing as Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission from 1986 to 1989. He was also Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo from 1989 to 1992. From 1992 to 1995, Mr. Menon served at Headquarters as Joint Secretary in charge of the North East Division. Mr. Menon served as Ambassador to Israel from 1995 to 1997, High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 1997 to 2000, Ambassador to China from 2000 to 2003 and High Commissioner to Pakistan from 2003 to 2006. Mr. Menon assumed charge as Foreign Secretary on 1 October 2006. Mr. Menon is married and has a daughter and a son. His mother tongue is Malayalam and he also speaks Chinese and German.

Marco Hausiku

Marco Hausiku is Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia. He was born in Kapako, Okavango Region. Prior to independence, he was a SWAPO member of the Constituent Assembly, which was in place from November 1989 to March 1990, and since 1990 he has been a member of the National Assembly of Namibia. He served as Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation from 1990 to 1992, as Minister of Works, Transport and Communication from 1992 to March 1995 and as Minister of Prisons and Correctional Services from March 1995 to August 2002. He was appointed Minister of Labor on August 27, 2002, and after nearly two years in that position he was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs.