

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 27 September 2019

CANBERRA – The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is delighted to announce the appointment of **Mario D’Elia** as National President.

Mario is a former Partner at PwC, having led its Infrastructure Advisory Practice, and takes over from Major General Michael Smith AO (Ret’d) who led the UNAA with distinction for three years in revitalising the organisation.

Announcing Mario’s appointment, UNAA National Secretary Louisa Minney said “We are privileged to welcome Mario to the UNAA as National President and look forward to a new phase of growth stewarded by his collaborative and inclusive leadership.”

Minney highlighted D’Elia’s appointment “continues the Board’s commitment to generational change and securing the long-term sustainability of the UNAA.”

As we welcome Mario, the Board also formally appoints to the Board:

Liesel Meineke - National Treasurer. An expert in financial and cost management advice, having previously worked at EY and on not for profit boards;

Justin Howden - Independent Director. Group Head, Government Affairs and Industry Development, Swisse Wellness (H&H Group);

Richard Gruppetta - Independent Director. A global corporate advisor, former Australia diplomat and former advisory firm Partner.

Melissa King - Independent Director. A former CEO of Surf Life Saving Australia with expertise in business development, partnerships and marketing communications.

Reflecting on his appointment, D’Elia said he was “looking forward to assisting the UNAA to continue building its relationships with the Australian Government, the private sector and philanthropic organisations to promote awareness of the United Nations (UN), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the important role we all have to play.”

“We’re seeing already in business, that you’re left behind if you’re not leading to create change in policy areas important to customers, partners, stakeholders and Australians; such as climate change, gender equality and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.”

“I’m excited by the UNAA programs soon to launch, such as the UN Alumni Network, a network of Australians who are or have worked in the UN; the UNAA’s first Reconciliation Action Plan; and the UN and Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum, to be held at the MCG in April 2020. I look forward to working closely with the Board and in particular, Executive Director Lachlan Hunter to deliver these programs, build our partnerships, and increase awareness of the UN, the SDGs and the issues most important to Australia and Australians”.

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