

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Mehri Madarshahi-d'Orville

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Nationality: Canadian

Languages: English, French, Persian, Arabic

Madarshahi is the MaximsNews Paris Correspondent and a former senior United Nations official. Ms. Madarshahi served as Senior Economist (OSCAL), External Relations Officer with the Office for Emergency Operation in Africa, a member of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the Decentralization of Economic and Social Issues, head of the Management Audit Section (OII), a senior advisor to the Executive Secretary for Reform and Efficiency of the UN, and president of the UN Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA), where she represented nearly 26,000 international and local UN staff. She was the first president of the Staff Union to organize a signature campaign from 14000 UN staff around the world, to bring problems related to safety and security of the staff in the peace-keeping missions to the attention of the Security Council, leading to a resolution of the SC putting in place a number of important measures. She also established the Scholarship Fund for staff who lost their lives in line of duty. Ms. Madarshahi is now President of Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts through music around the world.

**EDUCATION** Master of Arts in International Affairs - Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
Diplôme supérieur, coopération internationale - Ottawa University, Canada  
Bachelor of Arts, Educational Science - Tehran University

### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

December 2004 - present

Founder and President, *Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations* Association, Paris/New York

- Promoted multicultural dialogues through musical interaction and concerts as a new and innovative means of communication for better understanding and tolerance among peoples and cultures.
- Convened and sponsored periodically seminars and symposia on the role of music as a vector for peace, cultural diversity and communications, in collaboration with UNESCO and Northeastern University, Boston (USA).
- In recognition of these unique efforts to promote respect for cultural diversity and peace, was awarded “the International Marrakech Prize” in 2005 and the “UNESCO 60th Anniversary Medal” in 2006.
- For further information please visit [www.melodydialogue.org](http://www.melodydialogue.org)

July 2003 – present

Paris Correspondent, *MaximsNews* USA

- Periodically wrote articles on European, Asian and African political, social and environmental issues
- Conducted a number of interviews with top political personalities and Nobel Prize winners
- For further information, please visit [www.maximsnews.com](http://www.maximsnews.com)

2006-present

Member of a High-Level Task Force by the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) on creation of the “Africa Leadership Prize”

- Assisted in establishing the terms of reference and guidelines for selection of nominees for the Award
- Liaised with potential donors and sponsors in mobilizing support and contributions.

1997- June 2003

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries

Prepared analytical reports on African development, organized relevant meetings, conferences and seminars; disseminated information to donor countries and NGOs; provided briefs to Member States on socio-economic problems of Africa; prepared reports by the Secretary-General for consideration by the General Assembly; represented Secretary-General at events of the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) and contributed to publications on African development issues; liaised with institutions of higher learning and provided briefings and lectures on African development.

1999-2000

Elected President, United Nations Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA)

Represented some 26,000 international and local UN staff before the United Nations legislative, governing (including the Security Council) and administrative bodies; acted as spokesperson for staff of the UN system; dealt with media, conducted press conferences, wrote articles and published monthly bulletins and a quarterly journal on major administrative, legal and security issues affecting UN staff.

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Management Analyst (1977-1979-1981, 1984-1985, 1987-1993)

For about 12 years, led and conducted diverse management reviews of the global UN Secretariat with a view to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness; developed elements for an integrated institutional management development system taking into account organizational/structural trends, problems and opportunities; applied workload analysis techniques and standards to establish a proper balance between input and output; and assisted in the application of human resource models for the Organization.

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary of Reform and Efficiency Board (1996)

Provided substantive and technical advice to the Executive Secretary of the Board on reinventing the

UN; assessed efficiency measures/mechanisms and their applicability to UN structures; re-engineered processes and prepared flow charts for efficiency reviews.

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Chief, Organization Management Unit, Office of Human Resources Management (1994-1996)

Designed organizational structures of various UN entities by identifying relevant legislative mandates and establishing chains of command; negotiated the establishment of proper tasks and accountability systems with Heads of the Departments; prepared and published the Organizational Manual of the UN Secretariat.

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Chief, Management Audit Section, Audit and Management Control Division, Office for Inspection and Investigation/UNOII (1994):

Reviewed management practices and procedures at the UN Secretariat; developed internal control standards (including programme evaluation, planning, organization of work, decision-making, delegation of authority, management of change, risk-taking and leadership practices) and conducted management audits of results-based programmes. – Served also as member of a High-level Task Force on the code of conduct and internal control standards for the United Nations Secretariat.

Member of the Secretary-General's Task Force on Decentralization of the Economic and Social Issues at the United Nations Secretariat (1993).

United Nations Secretariat, New York: External Relations Officer, Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA) (1984-85)

Conducted fund-raising campaign for 21 African countries in critical food emergency situation. Organized donor meetings and provided special situation reports.

Also acted as:

Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Administration and Management by providing support to a High-level task Force established by the Secretary-General to delineate responsibilities of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); organized meetings at various locations; contributed to preparation of substantive documents and analytical papers; participated in meetings of sub-groups and assisted in the preparation of the final report.

United Nations Secretariat, New York: Inter-agency Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine - 1982–1983

#### Other professional activities and affiliations

2002-present Member of the Board, *New York Virtuosi* Chamber Orchestra

2002-present Vice-President, BDS GlobeConsult GmbH (Germany)

1990-present Member of the Board of Directors, Africa Leadership Foundation, Inc.

- 1976 Special Advisor to the Minister of Economic and Finance, Iran
- 1975 Special Fellow, International Research and Development Centre (IDRC) Ottawa, Canada:
- 1967-1970 Director, Youth Palace, Tehran, Iran

#### Publications and research

Contributed to numerous articles and books, i.e. *Beyond Freedom, Leadership for Africa, Higher Education and its Impact on the Development of Developing Countries*, to publications by the Africa Leadership Forum such as on African women, the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), strategic development initiatives for Parliamentarians in Africa, the Dialogue among Civilizations (UNESCO publication) and to journals such as Africa Recovery, published by the United Nations Department of Public Information, UNDip bulletin, MaximsNews.com and various UN staff journals and bulletins.