

## Cutting the Costs of Remittances: The Role of Mobile Money

A Special Event 20 June 2014, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Room XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

## **Speaker bios**

**H.E. Ambassador Abdul Hannan** is the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Switzerland and Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN offices and other International Organizations in Geneva and Vienna. He is also concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Holy See. Prior to this, he was Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman from 2006-2009.

Ambassador Hannan obtained a Masters in Diplomacy from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom. Earlier, he obtained both Bachelors and Masters in Economics from the University of Chittagong in Bangladesh. He joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1984. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hannan served in the Africa, West Asia, Europe, SAARC and Personnel Wings. He was also Director General and Vice Principal of the Foreign Service Academy and Director in the Prime Minister's Office of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh Missions abroad, Ambassador Hannan served in Pakistan, Canada, India and Russia.





**Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi**, of Kenya, became UNCTAD's seventh Secretary-General in September 2013. Before that, Dr. Kituyi was Chief Executive of the Kenya Institute of Governance, a think tank and advocacy organization that focuses on linking academic research and the development of public policy. He has an extensive background as an elected official, an academic, and a holder of high government office. He also has wide-ranging experience in trade negotiations, and in African and broader international economics and diplomacy.

Dr. Kituyi served as Programme Director of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi from 1991 to 1992. He was elected to the Kenyan Parliament in 1992, and was twice re-elected. He was Kenya's Minister of Trade and Industry from 2002 to 2007. During 2011 and 2012, Dr. Kituyi was resident scholar and then non-resident fellow of the Africa Growth Initiative of the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C. He holds a Master's in Philosophy and a doctorate from the University of Bergen, Norway. He studied political science and

international relations at the University of Nairobi and at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, receiving a BA in 1982.

**Mr. Bishar A. Hussein**'s four-year mandate as Director General of the Universal Postal Union International Bureau began in January 2013. His vast experience of the postal sector encompasses 30 years and includes time as CEO of the Kenyan Post. Mr Hussein is well versed in UPU and diplomatic matters, having spent six years as Kenyan ambassador to the Gulf region, based in the United Arab Emirates. Prior to his election as Director General, he chaired the UPU Council of Administration from 2009-12. The UPU is the United Nations' specialized agency for postal services.





**Mr. Adolfo Brizzi** Adolfo Brizzi is currently the Director of the Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA) in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). PTA is the repository of the technical expertise in IFAD and in that capacity he provides oversight of the technical support to country programs, country policy dialogue and the pursuit of strategic and global partnership initiatives. Before joining IFAD in early 2012 he worked for 22 years in the World Bank in various Managerial and technical positions in the Agriculture and Rural Development sector. He has been involved in a range of advisory and investment-related activities covering agriculture, natural resources management, rural livelihoods, community driven development, rural finance, water and irrigation, forestry, bio-diversity and land issues. His experience spans over Africa, Latin America and Asia. The

last position he held was of Country Manager for Madagascar and before that he was the Sector Manager for agriculture and rural development for the South Asia Region. Before the Bank he worked 8 years with FAO, mostly in Africa. He holds a master degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Gembloux, Belgium, and a master degree on Environmental Sciences from the Fondation Universitaire Luxembourgeoise of Arlon, Belgium.

**Mr. Edwin Macharia** is a partner at Dalberg and based in Nairobi. He advises developing countries' governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, international organizations, foundations, NGOs and corporations on a range of issues including strategy, operational efficiency, and program implementation. Mr Macharia joined Dalberg from the Clinton Foundation where he held multiple roles focused on rural communities. As Director of Agriculture, he led the Foundation's thinking, operations and partnership-building in the agriculture space for a \$100M initiative focused on effecting holistic development at the grassroots. Before that, he was Director of the Rural Initiative for the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative. Prior to joining the Clinton Foundation, Mr Macharia was at McKinsey & Company where he served clients in the financial services and pharmaceuticals sectors. Edwin holds a degree in Biology from Amherst College.





**Ms. Seema Desai** is the Head of Mobile Money at the GSMA. The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, spanning more than 220 countries, and uniting around 800 of the world's mobile operators with more than 230 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem. Through its Mobile Money Programme, GSMA supports mobile network operators to scale mobile money services and reach more unbanked customers with financial services via the mobile channel. GSMA's work on mobile money is supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Omidar Network and The MasterCard Foundation. Prior to joining the GSMA in March 2009, Ms Desai managed a large portion of the Retail savings P&L for one of the largest retail banks in the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Tunmbi Idowu** is the Head of Compliance & Risk Control with Ericsson Mcommerce. In this capacity, he provides regulatory and compliance support to Ericsson M-commerce, partners, stakeholders and works closely with regulators around the world. He ensures that risks are properly identified and that products, practices and services meet international, regional and country regulatory standards. He also offers regulatory guidance on m-commerce to the private and government sectors. After working with Citi as an Assistant Vice President, Mr. Idowu served as Head of Compliance for Western Union in Western Europe, where he was actively involved in the implementation of relevant European Directives and Regulations (particularly the Payment Services and Electronic Money Directives) across the region, a task which he continues to perform today beyond Europe working with a variety of country Authorities, rules and regulations. Mr. Idowu has a Master's degree in International Law.





**Mr. Klaus Martin Löber** is the Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems (CPSS) hosted at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. Prior to this, Mr Löber was Head of the Oversight Division of the European Central Bank. He has also worked at the European Commission DG Internal Market, the Deutsche Bundesbank and private practice. Mr Löber was a founding secretary of the European Financial Markets Lawyers Group. He is co-editor of the Journal of Financial Markets Infrastructures, the Law and Financial Markets Review, Zeitschrift für Bank- und Kapitalmarktrecht and the Capital Markets Law Review. Mr Löber regularly writes on financial markets legal, regulatory and infrastructure issues.

