



10th Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

25–26 April 2018, Geneva, Palais des Nations

Bios of the Speakers and Moderators

Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief of CRAS, Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Janvier Désiré Nkurunziza is the Chief of Research and Analysis Section in the Commodities Branch, UNCTAD where he directs research on the interaction between primary commodities production, trade, and economic development. For several years, Janvier has been a resource person in the African Economic Research Consortium, a research and capacity building network based in Africa. Before his current position in UNCTAD, Janvier was the officer-in-Charge of the Africa Section, UNCTAD; Macroeconomic Policy Advisor at UNDP, New York; and an economist at UNCTAD and UNECA. Janvier also worked at the University of Oxford; Harvard University; the University of Yaoundé; the University of Burundi; the IMF; the World Bank and the University of Yale as a Consultant. He has published dozens of articles in internationally peer reviewed journals and chapters in edited books. He has coordinated the production of flagship reports, including: UNCTAD's Commodities and Development Report, and Economic Development in Africa Report; the African Economic Outlook; and UNECA's Economic Report on Africa. He holds a doctorate in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he is affiliated with the Center for the Study of African Economies. Janvier is a Fellow of several academic and research institutions. His recent research has focused on commodities and development; the economics of civil war and conflict; capital flight and illicit financial flows; and financial systems in Africa.

H.E. Mr. Eloi Laourou, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations Based in Geneva and Vienna

Diplomat of Career, with more than 32 years of professional experience in the Diplomatic Function. Previously Coordinator of the Group of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in the WTO (Year 2016), he is Co-Chairman of the Working Group on Trade and Development of the Francophonie in Geneva, and Chair of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body (Year 2018). Holds PhD in International Law and International Relations. Author of the Book: “La Diplomatie de l’Environnement : Déterminants économiques, politiques et juridiques » GOLIAS Editions, October 2017. (to be translated in English and Spanish)

Holger Matthey, Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO)

Holger Matthey has been working on medium term projections for about 15 years and is now leading the Medium-term Outlook and Market Analysis Team of the Trade and Markets Division at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. The team produces the annual OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook and conducts studies assessing emerging issues and their impact on global and domestic agricultural commodity markets. Holger joined FAO in 2004 as an Oilseeds Analyst, before that he was an Associate Scientist at the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at Iowa State University conducting domestic and international policy analysis. He started his career in agribusiness in former East Germany developing business plans for the restructuring of large collective farms. Holger holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska (USA)

Darren Cooper, Senior Economist, International Grains Council

Darren has spent two decades in the commodities sector, in a range of roles, covering different markets and industries, including mining and metals, tropical commodities, dry bulk freight and agriculture, notably grains, rice and oilseeds. He has travelled extensively and presented on a range of topics at international events. In 2006, he joined the International Grains Council, a London-based intergovernmental organisation, as a Senior Economist, with experience spanning all of the body's activities.

Christoph Sänger, Senior Economist, International Coffee Organization

Christoph Sänger is Senior Economist at the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in London, conducting research on coffee value chains in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Prior to joining the ICO he was economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development where he carried out sector and project evaluations to support the design of agribusiness investments in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Northern Africa. He has previously worked in the Division for International Cooperation at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in Berlin. He received his MS degree from University of California, Davis, USA and holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany.

Laurent Pipitone, Consultant, Director & co-founder, FarmBridge International, London, UK

Laurent Pipitone is a development economist, with 14 years of experience in the cocoa sector. Until 2017, he served as Economics Director of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). As such he was responsible for implementing the sustainability agenda of the Organization. He led and conducted economics studies on the cocoa sector, analysed market developments, supervised and implemented development projects and capacity building seminars in producing countries, and organised the World Cocoa Conference every 2 years. Since leaving the ICCO, Laurent has been working as a consultant, conducting economic studies on the agricultural sector in developing countries, as well as advising clients of leading international consultancy firms, and cocoa and chocolate companies. He recently co-founded FarmBridge International to assist cooperatives and farmers to address challenges faced to market their produce. Laurent holds a MSc in Macroeconomics Analysis and Economic Modelling applied to environmental issues and a Magistère in Economics from the University of Paris I Pantheon - Sorbonne.

Guillaume Albasini, Energy and Mining Analyst, Geneva

Guillaume Albasini, est un consultant indépendant spécialisé dans les secteurs des mines, des métaux et de l'énergie. Auparavant, il a été chercheur au Centre de Recherches Entreprises et Sociétés à Genève où il a réalisé diverses études sur la géopolitique de l'énergie et des matières premières et les défis rencontrés par les pays producteurs, la problématique du « local content » dans l'industrie pétrolière et gazière, le rôle des diamants de guerre et des minerais dans les conflits en Afrique subsaharienne et les stratégies de reconstruction post-conflit. Diplômé en sciences politiques de l'Université de Lausanne et titulaire d'un master en relations internationales de l'Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales et du Développement de Genève, il a réalisé un recueil de cartes thématiques sur les ressources minières, gazières et pétrolières du Grand Nord et de l'Extrême-Orient russe. Ses recherches les plus récentes portent sur la transition énergétique et son impact sur la demande en produits énergétiques et miniers.

Horacio M. Jurado, Director, Directorate of Mining Value Chain, Sustainability Undersecretariat, Ministry of Energy and Mining of the Republic of Argentina

Horacio M. Jurado has more than 20 years in mining and automotive companies, developing and implementing continuous improvement strategies, cost reduction initiatives, quality management systems and productive efficiency projects. Aeronautical Engineer from Universidad Tecnológica Nacional, with a specialization in Quality Engineering and an MBA. As part of the Sustainability Undersecretariat, the main role is to develop strategies to increase competitiveness of the Argentinian METS (Mining equipment, Technologies and Services) in order to provide a range of solutions to mining industry needs. With focus on SMEs, looking for different tools to improve supplier's performance, such as financial advice, technical support and staff training, among others. Following mining industry trends about new skills, others activities include policy developments to support new academic programs. Before joined the public sector, I worked in a private mining company for about 10 years in Production processes, Strategic planning, Talent management and People development. Prior to mining, I worked in car industry for over 10 years, in several projects about supplier development, quality management and customer service.

Rabia Ferroukh, Head of Policy Unit and Deputy Director, Policy Unit and Knowledge, Policy and Finance, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Abu Dhabi

Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi joined IRENA in 2011 where she is currently the Deputy Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance division. She also leads IRENA's Policy Unit, which is responsible for the work on a range of renewable energy policy issues including design, socio-economic benefits and integrated resource management. Dr. Ferroukhi brought to this position over 20 years of experience in the fields of energy, development and environment. She worked in both public and private sectors, including with governments in the Middle-East and North Africa, energy companies in the Mediterranean region and the GCC, and international institutions. Dr. Ferroukhi holds a Masters in Applied Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.

Rodrigo Carcamo, Economic Affairs Officer, Commodities Branch-DITC, UNCTAD

Rodrigo Cárcamo Díaz is Economic Affairs officer at the the Commodities Branch of UNCTAD where he carries out research on the relationships between commodities and economic development, with a focus on economic diversification. Previously, after working as a competition policy consultant in the UK, for 15 years he was Economic Affairs Officer working at the United Nations ECLAC, where he was country economist for different countries, and carried out research on macroeconomic cooperation among commodity producing countries and several other growth and development-related topics. He has worked too in different development projects, like the REDIMA project he coordinated, which led to his publication of a book in 2012. He has also published several articles, working papers, book chapters and contributed to different UN and other institutions' publications. He holds an MPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford, and a Diploma in Statistics with mention in Statistical Methods from the Universidad Católica de Chile.

James Howe, International Trade Centre, Geneva

James Howe is Senior Adviser at the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC's mission is to enable small-business export success by connecting small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and transition economies to the global trading system. James and his team work to enable enterprises to activate their marketing strategies through branding, sales and marketing programmes and e-commerce.

Bakytbek Amantayev, Expert, Center for Trade Policy Development, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan

Bakytbek Amantayev was born in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan on December 25, 1990. Currently, he lives Astana, Kazakhstan. In 2009 he graduated from the specialized school in physics, mathematics and informatics. In 2014 he graduated from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic research (Faculty of Finance and Management). In 2015 he graduated from Kazakh-British Technical University (Master of business administration). In 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 he was trained in JSC National oil and gas Company KazMunayGas in Department of Strategy and Coordination. In 2014-2015 he worked in Azadea Group, Almaty in Department of Finance. Since 2016 he is working in JSC Center of trade policy development of Ministry of national economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Department of analysis of market access for goods.

Mauricio López Dardaine, Argentina Chamber of Exporters, CERA, Argentina

Mauricio López Dardaine has an Industrial engineering degree from the University of Buenos Aires; Senior Partner Estudio López Dardaine, international trade consultants (1984 to date); member and former board director of Argentine Chamber of Exporters; long experience in international trade negotiations; marketing research in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, especially ref. chemicals and environmental goods.

Amir Lebdioui, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Cambridge, UK

Amir Lebdioui is a researcher working on economic diversification policy and resource-based industrialization in commodity-dependent economies. He is currently completing his PhD at the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom). He has contributed to several reports, research projects, consultancies, workshops and drafting of a guiding template for mining legislation for different governments, a private sector organization, a national oil company, a civil society-led south-south cooperation programme and several international institutions (such as the United Nations Development Programme, the ACP-EU Development Minerals programme and the Africa Mining Legislation Atlas). He holds an MPhil in Development studies.

Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director, COMESA Leather and Leather Products Institute project, Ethiopia ALLPI

Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, is a chartered Fellow of various acclaimed internationally recognized professional organizations where he is currently serving Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI), formerly called COMESA/LLPI, as Executive Director since 2013. He holds Degrees in the following fields: Ecotoxicology of the tanning Industry, Management and Remediation of Tannery Waste, Opportunity management; Value addition strategy for the leather sector; and Management Sciences. Before joining ALLPI, Prof. Mwinyihija was CEO of the Kenya Leather Development Council coupled with over 20years working with the leather sector at various levels in Government service. Currently, he provides leadership in the leather sector in disciplines such as Ecotoxicology and Value Chain Analysis of the leather sector. He is also a mentor, reviewer, examiner, researcher, author and publisher of peer reviewed books, papers and presentations related to the leather sector to regional and global arenas His involvement to the leather industry, leadership quality and collaborative relationships has greatly assisted in the successful attainment of illustrious milestone regionally and globally associated institutions. He has been participating as Member of the IULTCS Congress Scientific Committee for the last four Congresses. He is also a special ambassador for Africa appointed by the World Certification Institute, and recently he is appointed as the Vice President of the International Council of Tanners (ICT). (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mwinyikione_Mwinyihija).

Gothami Silva, Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce (DoC), Sri Lanka

Ms. Silva, a trade diplomat, heads Multilateral Trade Division of DoC since July 2017 & is responsible for formulating - country positions on areas covering WTO Agreements and policy decisions affecting commodity issues - while involving in trade negotiations at bilateral level, overseeing issues - contingent trade remedies, SPS/TBT issues. Joined DoC in 1988 and inducted in to her professional diplomatic career - spans over nearly 30 years. She played an instrumental role in shepherding SL's trade policy, while serving in India (Bombay), Switzerland (Geneva), Australia (Sydney) and Italy (Rome), Belgium (Brussels). Gothami held many prestigious posts & was the first female Sri Lankan diplomat ever to have become the Chairperson of two prestigious bodies operate within the UNFAO - the Committee of Commodity Problems (CCP) and Group of Seventy-Seven & China (G-77) - consequently in 2011/12 and 2013/14.