Diego Aulestia Valencia
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Chair of G77 and China

Mr. Valencia is a former international trade minister (2015-2016), and former housing minister (2013-2015) of Ecuador, as well as being the ambassador of Ecuador to Portugal (2012-2013) and representative for trade affairs to Europe (2013).

Mr. Valencia is chair of the diplomatic group representing developing countries at the United Nations, the G77, the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations. It provides the means for the countries of the global South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, enhance their joint negotiating positions on major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva

H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa Torres Almojuela assumed her position as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva in August 2016. Ambassador Almojuela has over 20 years of experience in the Philippine Foreign Service, having served in various capacities, including foreign assignments in Beijing and Vienna. In the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, she has served as Director for North Asia of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs, Executive Director of the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office and Senior Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Policy. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, she worked as a Legislative Staff and Information Officer in the Office of the Senate President of the 9th Congress of the Philippines. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Journalism) from the University of the Philippines and Master of Public Policy from Oxford University.
Ms. Coke-Hamilton has an in-depth knowledge of international trade and extensive experience in development policy, private sector development, capacity building and technical cooperation. This expertise was gained from her tenure with regional and international organizations including work with member states, national governments and universities. Previously, she has served as the Regional Hub Coordinator for the Caribbean in the Integration and Trade Department of the Inter-American Development Bank where she spearheaded the Aid for Trade initiative for the Caribbean. As Director of Trade and Competitiveness at the Organization of American States she worked on issues related to small island developing states and small economies in international trade and globalization. She serves as the Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency. She holds a BSc in International Relations and Economics from The UWI, Mona campus and a Juris Doctor in Law from the Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, DC.

Andy C Pratt
Professor of Cultural Economy, City, University of London

Andy is an expert on the topic of the cultural industries/creative economy. He is Director of the Centre for Culture and the Creative Industries at City University. He has published over 150 items: books, chapters and articles. More info and downloads of papers at Google Scholar or http://andypratt.sandvox.net. He currently has funding from the EU for a project on creative economy production chains. https://cicerone-project.eu

Andy specializes the analysis of the cultural industries globally. This research has three strands. The first focuses on the social and economic dynamics of clustering and knowledge exchange. The second strand concerns the definition and measurement of employment in the cultural, or creative, industries. The third concerns cultural governance and policy making at the national, regional and urban scales. Andy has worked as a consultant or advisor for national and urban cultural and creative industry policy makers globally, and specifically reports for the EU, Council of Europe, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and WIPO, and the British Council.
Giorgio Fazio  
Chair of Macroeconomics and, in the Creative Industries Policy Evidence Centre, and leads the Workstrand on the International Competitiveness Newcastle University.

Professor Giorgio Fazio is an applied economist with expertise in open macroeconomics, trade and investment. He has published several articles in international journals and chapters in edited books looking at issues such as the determination of real exchange rates; the interaction between globalisation and the macroeconomy; international contagion and crises; growth, inequality and convergence at the national and regional levels; the determinants of productivity at the macro and micro level; empirical models of bilateral trade and FDI; the development of civic and cultural capital.

Hubert Escaith  
Former Chief Statistician of the World Trade Organization

Hubert Escaith is the former Chief Statistician of the World Trade Organization and a former Director of Statistics and Modelling of the United Nations ECLAC regional commission.

Since his retirement, he has undertaken a series of consulting assignments for international and national organizations. He is associated as researcher or visiting scholar with the Aix-Marseille School of Economics (France), the Bournemouth University (UK) and the Shanghai University for International Business and Economics (China). His present research activities focus on the statistical and economic analysis of global value chains from the perspective of international trade and development economics.

Hubert holds a Master in Economics from Aix-Marseille university (F), a Doctorate in Mathematics Applied to Economics from Toulouse University (F) and a Master Degree from ESSEC Business School (Paris-Cergy, F).
Katelijn Verstraete  
Regional Director Arts and Creative Industries  
British Council, Singapore City, Singapore

Over the last 20 years Katelijn Verstraete has built up experience in the business and cultural sector. She has developed multi-stakeholder platforms between Asia and Europe in the areas of cultural policy, artistic exchange & networking, training and skills development and online platforms. She is the co-founder of the (then) first independent arts hub in Shanghai (BizArt), was developing training, information provision and Asia connections for Europe's International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (www.ietm.org) and for the arts practitioners mobility portal www.on-the-move.org. She led on Asia-Europe cultural exchange programmes in the Asia Europe Foundation (www.asef.org & www.culture360.asef.org).

She is currently Director Arts and Creative Industries at the British Council East Asia leading on the work in 14 countries in the region. Key areas of work are related to inclusion & diversity, crafts & design, creative & social innovation, skills and leadership development in the creative sector. She has a special interest in the intersections between culture and education, sustainable development, and creative and social enterprise. Katelijn is the co-author of the Europe-China Cultural Compass, a EUNIC cluster publication.

Oscar Hernández Salgar  
In charge of the Technical Secretariat of the Creative and Cultural Industries focus of the Commission of Experts convened by the Colombian government to define long-term policies in science, technology and innovation.

Master in music with an emphasis in cultural administration, Master in Cultural Studies and PhD in Social and Human Sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. He was Coordinator of the Children and Youth Arts Program and Director of the Department of Music in the same institution. He has published several books, articles and book chapters on topics such as music and power, musical post-colonialism and musical signification. He is a member of several national and international music research associations. In 2014 he won the Casa de las Américas Musicology Award for his book "The myths of national music. Power and emotion in Colombian music 1930 - 1960". His current field of research is around the political role of musical emotions. In addition to his musicological work, since 2013 he has been Assistant for Artistic Creation at the Vice-Rectory of Research of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. From there he has focused on the reflection on artistic creation management and artistic research in the university, topic on which he has published and conducted workshops and lectures in different Colombian cities. Since 2014, he has been part of the National Arts, Architecture and Design Bureau of the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation - Colciencias, where he has promoted the creation and implementation of assessment criteria for artistic and creative production within Colciencias' Research Groups Measurement Model. Since February 2019, he has been in charge of the Technical Secretariat of the Creative and Cultural Industries focus of the Commission of Experts convened by the national government to define long-term policies in science, technology and innovation.
Rasmus Wiinstedt Tscherning
CEO and Founder of Creative Business Cup

CEO and Founder of Creative Business Cup, the global network supporting creative and innovative entrepreneurs, www.creativebusinesscup.com (2012-). Former Managing Director of CKO – Center for Cultural and Experience Economy (2009-15). Former Chairman of the European Creative Industries Alliance, appointed by the European Commission (2012-15). Co-chair of OMC Group on Access to Finance for Cultural and Creative Sectors (2014-15). Advisory Board Member Wallonia European Creative District, Founding Member of RCIA – the Regional Creative Industries Alliance. Advisory Board Member, Copenhagen Business School, Master in Management of Creative Business Processes. Member of the Board for the Danish Cultural Institute and Roskilde Business College. Chairman of the board of DIAS – Digital Art Gallery. Passionate about promoting entrepreneurship, the creative industries and cross sector innovation and speaker on these subjects in French, English, German, Danish and Swedish. He has a MA in Political Science and a creative DNA: 18 year old, he won a Scandinavian graphic design competition and was in 2009 part of the team of architects and engineers who won 1st Prize for the Masterplan for Nordhavnen, a part of Copenhagen for 40.000 citizens. Rasmus has 22 years of experience related to the creative industries and is formerly: Member of the board of VEGA, 2002-11, Scandinavia’s leading concert venue; Official Speaker for the European Commission DG Education and Culture, 1997-2008; Marketing Director, Roskilde Festival, 1998-2003; Co-presenter, France 2 – France Television, 1998-99.

Regula Staub
Managing Director Creative Hub Switzerland

Involved from the very beginning, she was a decisive contributor to the Creative Hub, initially as assistant, and since 2017 as managing director.

With excellent connections to the Swiss creative economy and partners of the Creative Hub, she pulls all the strings. Regula completed a master’s in art history at the University of Bern, and prior to that a bachelor’s in textile design from Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. In addition to her work at the Creative Hub she also produces her own projects in the area of textiles.

About Creative Hub:
Creative Hub: What is Creative Hub?
• National promoting platform for the creative industries
• Founded in 2013
• Our goal: Help Swiss creative talent to commercialise innovative products and services
Michael Soendermann
Owner and managing director of the Office for Culture Industries Research in Cologne (Germany).

Michael holds a Master’s degree in economics, politics, sociology, cultural studies and pedagogy from the German Universities of Cologne and Hildesheim. He is the owner and managing director of the Office for Culture Industries Research in Cologne (Germany). He has close to 20 years of experience in culture and creative industries research, in comparative cultural statistics and monitoring, including employment. He is regularly invited to participate as an expert on culture and creative industries in European or international projects.


Unathi Lutshaba
Executive Director of the South African Cultural Observatory

Miss Unathi Lutshaba is a passionate economist and sociologist. She was recently appointed into the role of Executive Director of the South African Cultural Observatory, after two years as its Research Manager. Here she plays a central role in the overall project management of the Department of Arts and Culture’s national research arm. Miss Lutshaba has an MA in Development Studies from the Nelson Mandela University, and is currently working toward her PhD, also from the Nelson Mandela University, where she is focussing on traditional values and the current economic systems in Dikidikana. Previously she lectured in the Economics and Sociology Departments, respectively at Nelson Mandela University. She is an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship recipient and Alumni.

Unathi Lutshaba’s research interests includes rural development; commerce and industry; the nature of work in the creative economy; cultural policy; cultural leadership and development; development theory; and development history. She has contributed broadly to research and commentary in these areas. Miss Lutshaba has leveraged her academic and entrepreneurial skills to secure and run a range of small to medium-scale multidisciplinary research projects in the Nelson Mandela Bay over her career. In addition, she has worked for the public and private sectors. A ‘rural girl’ at heart, she is fanatical about the development of young people, issues of transformation, development of young researchers in the arts and culture industry, development history. She is also unduly fond of reading about the African history and the current emerging trends in society.
Christiaan De Beukelaer
Senior Lecturer in Cultural Policy in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne

Christiaan De Beukelaer is a Senior Lecturer in Cultural Policy in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. His current research project “UNESCO and the Making of Global Cultural Policy” explores the role UNESCO’s 2005 Convention plays in the formation of cultural policies in the global south. He authored two books, “Developing Cultural Industries: Learning from the Palimpsest of Practice” (2015) and “Global Cultural Economy” (2019, with Kim-Marie Spence). He edited two books, "Globalization, Culture, and Development: The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity" (2015, with Miikka Pyykkönen and JP Singh) and "Cultural Policies for Sustainable Development" (2018, with Anita Kangas and Nancy Duxbury). He also published numerous articles on cultural industries, cultural policy, and the UN’s involvement in both.

Diana.V. Barrowclough
Senior Economist, UN Conference on Trade and Development, (UNCTAD), Geneva

Diana Barrowclough has a background in economics and political science, in both academic and applied contexts. She joined the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development in 2001, where she is currently Senior Economist in the Globalization and Development Division. In addition to co-authoring numerous United Nations flagship publications such as the Trade and Development Report, she is managing international research on themes relating to south-south integration, investment, structural transformation and development. Before this, she lectured economics at the University of Cambridge, where she was elected a Fellow of St John’s College. Prior to joining academia she advised national and supranational governments, regulatory authorities and the private sector on privatisation, regulation, investment and other issues. She was educated at the University of Cambridge (PhD Economics) and University of Auckland (MA, BA Economics and Political Science). Recent publications include Southern-Led Development Finance: Solutions from the Global South (forthcoming, Routledge; edited with K.Gallagher and R.Kozul-Wright) and Solidarity and the South – Changing the landscape of long-term development finance (2018, UNCTAD; with R. Gottschalk). On the theme of creative industries, publications include Voice, Choice and Economic Growth – creative industries and developing countries (2011, 2008 with Z. Kozul-Wright, Routledge Studies in Contemporary Political Economy), and The production of knowledge, innovation, and IP in developing countries: creative industries and the development agenda, (2009) in Netanel N.W (Ed), The development agenda: global intellectual property and developing countries, Oxford University Press.
Carol Roberts
Chief Executive Officer, National Cultural Foundation, Barbados

Carol Roberts – Reifer is a radio and television broadcaster by profession with almost 40 years media experience. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the National Cultural Foundation in Barbados. The NCF is the agency charged with developing the cultural industries as well as opportunities for practitioners in the creative economy. The NCF is also responsible for the conceptualization and production of all national events including visits by heads of state, national commemorative events and cultural festivals.

Margherita Licata
Sector Policy Department, International Labour Organization, Geneva

Margherita Licata works at the International Labour organization, in the Sectoral Policies Department and has over 12 years of experience in policy advice and support in the area of social and labour issues, health, and equality at work, including two years in Southern Africa. She currently coordinates global and regional research, policy advice and strategies related to labour issues, social dialogue and labour protection in retail/commerce, media and culture and financial services.

Kim-Marie Spence
Postdoctoral Researcher, Research, Innovation & Enterprise, Solent University, Southampton

Kim-Marie Spence is a postdoctoral researcher at Southampton Solent University (UK) with a speciality in cultural industries and policy. She is also an adjunct lecturer in media and communication at University of the West Indies (Jamaica). Kim-Marie has done significant research on the popular culture industries of reggae, Bollywood, K-pop and K-drama, as part of her PhD at the Australian National University. She is a former Rhodes Scholar and Jamaica Film Commissioner/Head of Creative Industries in Jamaica. She has also worked with UNESCO on the Representative List of Oral and Intangible Heritage. She is co-author of Global Cultural Economy with Routledge Publishers.
Jen Snowball  
Professor of Economics at Rhodes University

Jen Snowball is a full professor of Economics at Rhodes University, with a PhD in Economics from the same university. She is also a researcher at the National Cultural Observatory in South Africa. Her research interests are focused in the fields of cultural economics (or the economics of arts and culture), as well as environmental and natural resource economics, local economic development and tourism economics.

Gabriel Joaquim Cabuço  
Director of the National Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries in Angola

Gabriel Joaquim Cabuço, holds a degree in History Teaching, from the Higher Institute of Educational Sciences of the Agostinho Neto University. He has been an employee of the Ministry of Culture for 34 years. He currently holds the position of general director of the National Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries. The institute coordinates and interacts with other bodies of the Ministry of Culture and Professional Associations that are operational in this area with a view to the Creation of the National Plan for Cultural and Creative Industries.

Marisa Henderson  
Chief, Creative Economy Programme, UNCTAD

Marisa Henderson has been working at UNCTAD for the last nineteen years. She is currently the Chief of the Creative Economy and Development Section in UNCTAD which aims to support developing countries in maximising the use of their rich supply of creativity and cultural assets to generate employment and to reduce poverty. Prior to her current position, Marisa worked for UNCTAD Geneva in different capacities in the Office of the Secretary-General, the intergovernmental support service, the Virtual Institute and the Trade Division. She also spent two and a half years as the Chief of the UNCTAD Office in New York and three years as the Chief of Staff of the Division of Trade and Commodities in UNCTAD where she provided authoritative strategic advice and guidance to the Senior Management Team on the vision, mission, mandate and operations of the Trade Division as well as substantive inputs on a range of trade-related development issues.
Marisa received a PhD in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick, U.K, and a master’s in international Relations from FLACSO, Argentina. Before joining UNCTAD, Marisa worked at the Mission of Argentina in Geneva, dealing with WTO issues and at the House of Commons in London working with for the then Labour Shadow Minister on Development. She has taught at University level both in the England and Argentina. Marisa has a number of publications on international trade issues, including training material for UNCTAD’s Virtual Institute and a number of parliamentary reports on trade and development issue.