

## **UNCTAD DISCUSSION**

### **Speaker biographies - On the trail of capital flight from Africa, 10 March**

**Margarida Rosa da Silva Izata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva**

Ambassador Margarida Izata has a long and rich experience in multilateral affairs. She was appointed as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office in Geneva since May 2018.

In 2019, she was the African Group Coordinator for Human Rights issues and Vice-President of the ILO Centenary Conference. In 2020 and 2021 was appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council Gender Focal Point for cases of sexual and gender-based harassment.

Prior to her appointment to Geneva, Mrs Izata served as Director of the Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of External Relations, since 2008 for a period of 10 years. She has been a member of Angolan delegations to the UNGA since 1996.

Coordinator of the African Group in Geneva for UNCTAD issues during 2020. Chair of the 12th session of UNCTAD multi-year expert meeting on commodities and Development in 2021.

She was also the national Coordinator of the Inter-sectorial Committee for Drafting National Report on Human Rights issues for 5 years.

Mrs. Izata served as Minister-Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations in New York (2nd and 5th Committees) from 1998 to 2004.

She joined the Ministry of External Relations in 1985, after graduating from 1977 to 1981, at the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania. She also has a Master's Degree, from 2003 to 2004, in "Prevention and Resolution Conflict", at a joint program of the Ignatius and Sofia University in New York.

**Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD**

Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright is Director of the Globalization and Development Strategies Division in UNCTAD. He has worked at the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge UK. He has published widely in economic journals and is a frequent contributor to newspapers such as the Financial Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, El País, Project Syndicate, among others.

In collaboration with Kevin P. Gallagher of the Boston University, he published A New Multilateralism for Shared Prosperity – Geneva Principles for a Global Green New Deal and their book On the Case for a New Bretton Woods will be published in 2021. He is also a co-editor of the Oxford Handbook on Industrial Policy

**James K. Boyce, Senior Fellow at Political Economy Research Institute, and Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Professor Boyce received his Ph.D. in economics from Oxford University. He is the author many articles and books, latest one is: On the Trail of Capital Flight from Africa: The Takers and the Enablers, co-edited with Leonce Ndikumana.

His other books include Economics for People and the Planet: Inequality in the Era of Climate Change (Anthem 2019); Economics, the Environment and our Common Wealth (Edward Elgar 2013); Investing in Peace: Aid and Conditionality After Civil Wars (Oxford University Press 2002); The Political Economy of the Environment (Edward Elgar 2002), The Philippines: The Political Economy of Growth and Impoverishment in the Marcos Era (Macmillan 1993); Agrarian Impasse in Bengal: Institutional Constraints to Technological Change (Oxford University Press 1987).

He is co-author of Africa's Odious Debts: How Foreign Loans and Capital Flight Bled a Continent (Zed Books, 2011); and A Quiet Violence: View from a Bangladesh Village (with Betsy Hartmann, Zed Press 1983).

He is the co-editor of Reclaiming Nature: Ecological Restoration and Environmental Justice (Anthem Press 2007); Peace and the Public Purse (Lynne Rienner 2007); and Natural Assets: Democratizing Environmental Ownership (with Barry Shelley, Island Press 2003) and editor of Economic Policy for Building Peace: The Lessons of El Salvador (Lynne Rienner 1996).

Professor Boyce's current work focuses on climate change, environmental justice, capital flight, and the relationship between economic policies and violent conflict.

**Leonce Ndikumana, Director, African Development Policy Program and Distinguished Professor of Economics.**

Professor Ndikumana is also the member of the United Nations Committee on Development Policy and the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation. Léonce Ndikumana has served as Director of Operational Policies and Director of Research at the African Development Bank, Chief of Macroeconomic Analysis at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and visiting Professor at the University of Cape Town.

He is also an Honorary Professor of economics at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He has contributed to various areas of research and policy analysis on African countries, including the issues of external debt and capital flight, financial markets and growth, macroeconomic policies for growth and employment, and the economics of conflict and civil wars in Africa.

He is co-editor of *Capital Flight from Africa: Causes, Effects and Policy Issues* and co-author of *Africa's Odious Debts: How Foreign Loans and Capital Flight Bled a Continent*, published also in French as *La Dette Odieuse d'Afrique : Comment l'endettement et la fuite des capitaux ont saigné un continent*, in addition to dozens of academic articles and book chapters on African development and Macroeconomics.

He is a graduate of the University of Burundi and received his doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Nicholas Shaxson, author and a journalist**

Mr. Shaxson has published widely on issues of finance, commodities, and Africa. His books include *Poisoned Wells*, a book about African oil and the "Resource Curse;" *Treasure Islands*, a book about tax havens; and *The Finance Curse*, about the self-harm suffered by countries with oversized financial sectors. He has written for the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and many others. He was born in Malawi, educated in England, and lives in Berlin.

**Janvier Nkurunziza, officer-in-charge, Commodities Branch, and Chief of Research and Analysis Section in the same Branch of UNCTAD.**

Dr Nkurunziza directs research on the interaction between primary commodities production, trade, and use, on the one hand, and economic development on the other.

Prior to his current position, 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 Harvard University; the University of Yaoundé; the University of Burundi; the IMF and the World Bank. He was a consultant on a World Bank/University of Yale project.

Janvier trained as an economist at the University of Burundi, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), University of Oxford (doctorate) and Harvard University (Post-doc). He has coordinated the production of flagship reports at UNECA, UNDP, and UNCTAD, including the Commodities and Development Report.

He has also published dozens of peer reviewed journal articles and chapters in edited books. Janvier is a Fellow of several academic and research institutions, including the CSAE at Oxford University, Africa House at New York University, and PERI at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For the last ten years, he has been a resource person in the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), based in Africa.

His current research interests include the study of commodity dependence and its implications for development, economics of conflict, and development macroeconomics issues such as investment, inflation, and economic growth.

**Attiya Waris, UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and Professor of Law at Nairobi University**

Professor Waris was appointed the UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights by the Human Rights Council at its 47<sup>th</sup> session and took up this function on 1 August 2021. She holds a PhD in Law and is a specialist in Fiscal Law, Policy and Development. She is the first female Director of Research and Enterprise at the University of Nairobi. Ms Waris teaches at the Law School, University of Nairobi, Kenya and has previously taught in South Africa, Rwanda, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. Prof Waris has researched and published on global, African, Asian, European as well as Latin American issues.