

## Workshop

### Building Economic Resilience through South-South Cooperation and Targeted Policy Strategies

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Bridgetown, Barbados

Co-organizer: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, The University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

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## CONSOLIDATED SPEAKER BIOS

in alphabetical order by surname

Hamza ALI-MALIK

Hamza Malik, currently the Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD) at UN-ESCAP, leads the team responsible for analyzing economic conditions and emerging development challenges in Asia-Pacific economies, and assesses potential policy options and financing strategies that can support them in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under his guidance, the division publishes two annual flagship publications – the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report – and an edited analytical book, once in two years, on selected Financing for Development issues. Hamza is also the chief editor of ESCAP's academic journal, the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal, and supervises the publication of working papers and policy briefs on various economic and financing issues. Before joining the UN-ESCAP in 2014, Hamza worked as the Director of Monetary Policy Department at the central bank of Pakistan (SBP), and before that he was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Lakehead University, Canada. He graduated from McMaster University with a PhD in economics in 2002.

Dima AL-KHATIB

Dima Al-Khatib is the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. She has more than 27 years of leadership, management, and sustainable development experience in several duty stations. Prior to her current function, she served as the UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova (2019-2023), Programme and Policy Coordinator at the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman (2018-2019), UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Kuwait (2013-2018), UNDP Deputy Country Director in Libya (2012-2013), UNDP Headquarters (2004-2012) as Regional Programme Advisor with the Regional Bureau for Arab States, preceded by her function as Human Resources Manager with the Talent Management Group of the Office of Human Resources and as Sustainable Energy Specialist with the Bureau for Development Policy. Dima holds a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Environmental Health from the Lebanese University and France University of Bordeaux II (1996), a Bachelor of Science and a Teaching Diploma in Environmental Health from the American University of Beirut (1989)

## Dr. Antonio ALLEYNE

Dr. Antonio Alleyne's research falls under the scope of economic integration. He particularly uses quantitative methods to investigate concerns pertaining to, but not limited to, international trade, innovation, competitiveness and development in the Caribbean, with a special interest in Asian economies. Dr. Alleyne's current focus is on the integration efforts between the Caribbean and Asian regions. His interest surrounds the values of close Caribbean-Asian relations from a commercial perspective.

## Betty ALLEYNE-HEADLEY

Mrs Betty Alleyne-Headley is a long standing career Public Servant with a wealth of practical experience and training in public sector, international and human resource management, as well as, the regulation of specific areas of the non-financial sector. Mrs Alleyne-Headley's career spans across many Ministries from a junior officer to Permanent Secretary (ag) in the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training and now Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment with responsibility for Economic Affairs. During her initial career path she would have spent most of her foundational years in the accounting stream, before being appointed as Deputy Registrar with responsibility for the regulation of the Credit Union Sector. Given this experience, she held the position of Manager of Securities and Credit Unions at the Financial Services Commission during its initial year of operation. Mrs Alleyne-Headley subsequently became the Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. She was also a member of several Boards and was the Chairman of the Student Revolving Loan Fund under the Education Ministry.

## Senator the Hon. Chad BLACKMAN

Senator Blackman is the Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados. With over twenty years of experience in international development, he possesses tremendous insight to the myriad of challenges and opportunities faced by countries in the Global South. Minister Blackman previously served as a Consultant in Youth Development at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, as well as a Partner in St. Lucia-based law firm with a specialization in international trade and data protection law. He served as Barbados' Ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva, Vienna and Rome, as well as Ambassador to Switzerland, Austria, Hungary and Serbia. During his tenure, he served in various committees in the WTO, UNCTAD, including Chair of the Trade and Environment Committee, and Trade and Development Committee of the WTO, the President of the G77 and China in Geneva, as well as on the Global Board of the UN International Gender Champions. Additionally, he served as the Coordinator of the SIDS Group, and Vice-President of the Executive Bureau both in UNCTAD. He later joined the International Labour Organization (ILO) as Senior Advisor to the Director-General with responsibility in Cabinet for Latin America & The Caribbean, Africa and Arab States; External Relations; Legal Affairs, the ILO's Tribunal and Corporate Services. Minister Blackman has both the LLB Law and LLM International Trade Law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and is an Associate Member of the London-based Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and is fluent in French.

## Youssouf CADER

Yousof Cader is the Head of the Business Information Unit at the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives in Mauritius. This department created 20 years ago is predominantly involved in big data analytics and information management. Prior to this position he was an Industrial Development Officer within the same ministry for 10 years and was involved with

the monitoring of performance of manufacturing enterprises. He recognises the importance of data driven decision making for monitoring of enterprises and policy formulation.

#### Richelle GASKIN

Richelle Gaskin is currently Senior Economist (ag.) in the Research and Planning Unit (RPU) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment in Barbados. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Prior to her current acting assignment, she worked as an economist at the same Ministry, where she assisted and continues to assist in research and analysis undertaken by the RPU, and also supports the facilitation of technical and financial assistance from the Organization of American States (OAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – some of the development partners for which the Ministry serves as focal point.

#### Michael HENDRICKSON

Michael is an Economic Affairs Officer with UNECLAC. He has many years of experience working on development issues in the region. Michael has been a longstanding member of ECLAC's Disaster Assessment Team which assesses the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters in the region and proposes strategies for building resilience. In addition, at ECLAC he works on a range of issues, including sector studies, trade and integration and the impact of fiscal policy and debt on sustainable development in the region. Michael is interested in how the region can promote economic growth that benefits the mass of citizens, while protecting its environmental and cultural resources. He is also concerned about the need for greater policy space to pursue strategies that can advance socioeconomic resilience. Michael was trained in economics at the University of the West Indies and in economics and law at the University of London

#### Mahalia JACKMAN

Dr. Mahalia Jackman is currently the Head of the Department of Economics. Before joining The UWI, Dr Jackman was a consultant and the Head of Model Development at Antilles Economics. Dr. Jackman also has a wealth of experience as a research and policy economist, having worked in the Research and Economic Analysis Department at the Central Bank of Barbados during the early years of her career. She joined the Central Bank of Barbados right after completing her undergrad studies and has held several posts there, including Senior Economist and Head of the Financial Unit. Dr Jackman has many research interests. Her early work revolved around economic issues in small island developing states– a reflection of her tenure at the Central Bank of Barbados. While the aforementioned topics remain areas of interest, a plurality of her current research focuses on issues relating to sexual prejudice and gender equality.

#### Alwyn JORDAN

Jordan was appointed Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados on October 1, 2019. He is an experienced central banker who has worked at the Central Bank of Barbados and the Central Bank of the Bahamas. Jordan, was most recently Manager of the Research Department at the Central Bank of Bahamas. In his role as Deputy Governor, Jordan oversees the Bank's Research and Economic Analysis (READ), Bank Supervision, and Management of Information Systems (MIS) departments.

## Marcelo LAFLEUR

Marcelo LaFleur is a Senior Economist in the Economic Analysis and Policy Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He joined the United Nations in 2007 and has worked on a wide range of issues, including trade, structural transformation, investment, and the drivers of sustainable development. As part of the Development Research Branch, Marcelo now studies how global transformative forces such as technological innovation and diffusion can be harnessed for faster SDG progress. Prior to joining the New York office, Marcelo was a leading researcher in the Trade and Integration Division of the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, where he specialized in the impact of trade on poverty and inequality. Before joining the UN Marcelo worked as a financial economist with the United States Government where he determined and negotiated sovereign risk ratings in the OECD. Marcelo earned a Ph.D. in Economics and an MA in International Political Economic and Development from Fordham University. He earned a BA in Economics from Saint Mary's College of California.

## Prof. Clive LANDIS

Professor of Cardiovascular Research, Clive Landis assumed the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus on August 1st, 2021. He previously served as Deputy Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, and as Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies. An experienced researcher, Professor Landis has published over 150 scientific papers and conference presentations on the pathophysiology of inflammation during wound healing, vascular disease, and recovery post-surgery. More recent research interests have centered on viral and public health research: established viruses such as HIV as well as emerging viruses such as ZIKV and SARS-CoV-2. Professor Landis' interest in HIV has revolved around the Immunology PhD programme that he founded at Cave Hill, as well as a sixteen-year research collaboration with the public HIV laboratory. On a regional level he served as chair of The UWI's Zika Task Force and COVID-19 Task Force, while supporting laboratory capacity building as chair of the Caribbean Cytometry & Analytical Society. His most recent research has focused on policy response during a time of pandemic.

## Dr. Laura MANN

Laura Mann is an Associate Professor in the international Development department at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research focuses on the political economy of development, knowledge and technology. Her regional focus is East Africa (Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda) but she has also worked on collaborative research on ICTs and BPO in Asia and has conducted fieldwork in North America as part of a project on digitisation within global agriculture. Before joining the LSE, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford and at the African Studies Centre in Leiden, and received her PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She is on the Editorial Board of the new journal, *Platforms and Society*. If she could sum up her current research interests in one question, it would be "Who captures the benefits of knowledge and technology within the global economy and what can be done to increase and widen control of those benefits?"

## Alicia NICHOLLS

Alicia D. Nicholls is an international trade consultant with over a decade of experience providing bespoke trade research and advisory services to a variety of clients. She is currently a research fellow and part-time lecturer with the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy & Services

of the University of the West Indies and also lectures part-time in the political economy of international trade and finance in The UWI Cave Hill's Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology. Miss Nicholls is the founder of the Caribbean's leading trade policy and development blog, [www.caribbeanradelaw.com](http://www.caribbeanradelaw.com), since 2011. She also presents regularly at both regional and international academic and industry-related conferences and webinars. Her primary research interests are foreign investment law/policy, global financial regulation and international business. Miss Nicholls' multidisciplinary background includes a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with First Class Honours, a Master of Science in International Trade Policy with Distinction and a Bachelor of Laws with Upper Second Class Honours from The University of the West Indies. She also holds the prestigious FITT Diploma in International Trade from the Ontario, Canada-based Forum for International Trade Training (FITT). She attained the Post-Graduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning (PGCUTL) from The UWI in July 2022. Miss Nicholls is a member of several professional organisations, notably the FITT, the Academy of International Business, the Caribbean Studies Association and the International Studies Association. She is also part of the network of experts of the Caribbean Chamber of Commerce in Europe (CCEE), an Advisory Committee member of the Caribbean-ASEAN Council and a Fellow of the Caribbean Policy Consortium (CPC). In her limited spare time, she enjoys volunteering, travelling and is a proud member of the Lions Club of Bridgetown.

#### Sheldon MCLEAN

Mr. Sheldon L.A. Mc Lean is currently the Coordinator of the Economic Development Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), based at the Sub-Regional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain which has responsibility for 25 Caribbean countries - 13 of which belong to the ACP Group. Mr. Mc Lean has previously served as Regional Trade Policy Advisor at the Caribbean Community Secretariat; Trade Specialist with the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland; and Research Associate with the then Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM). Mr. Mc Lean has over 20 years of experience in the areas of trade and traderelated development policies; bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations; regional integration; trade policy formulation; private sector development; as well public debt and finance. Whilst at UN ECLAC he has authored numerous research papers on current and emerging issues for small economies, including de-risking, regional integration, the efficacy of Caribbean SIDS' bilateral trade agreements, promoting structural transformation in the Caribbean, transfer pricing in the hydrocarbon sector, tourism diversification and climate finance. Mr. Mc Lean is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, having earned both a BSc. Agricultural Economics and MSc. Agricultural Economics, specializing in Policy Development, from that institution.

#### Cloe ORTIZ DE MENDIVIL

Cloe Ortiz de Mendivil is the Country Economist for Barbados and The Bahamas at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). She is a former consultant at the Trade and Integration Sector of the IDB. She has written multiple long and short reports used to steer discussions among policymakers in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to inform non-specialist audiences on the topic of international trade. Prior to joining the IDB, she worked at the private sector doing management consulting and at the Central Bank of Mexico. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota.

#### Igor PAUNOVIC

Igor Paunovic is a senior economist with degrees from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and the New School for Social Research, New York City, USA. Mr. Paunovic is currently with UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) in Geneva working on issues related to global governance,

climate change and development strategies, industrial and fiscal policy, South-South cooperation and regional integration. He is also Chief of the Climate and Development Strategy Unit. At UNCTAD, he earlier worked on economic challenges of the Least Developed Countries. Earlier, he was Chief of the Economic Development Unit of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico. Before that, Mr. Paunovic worked on fiscal issues and structural reforms in Latin American and the Caribbean countries at UN ECLAC in Santiago, Chile. At the beginning of his career, he worked as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

#### Jan Yves REMY

Dr Jan Yves Remy is the Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. She holds the position of WTO Chair at the University of the West Indies (Barbados); has served as a panelist in WTO trade disputes; and has been included on the panel roster to serve as arbitrator and/or Chair on a number of mechanisms under European and UK FTAs. She is a Co-Founder of the Caribbean Women in Trade network and the Remaking Global Trade for a Sustainable Future Project which she leads with Professors from Yale University and Tufts University. She is also the Founder of the Joint University Study Tour (JUST). Jan Yves currently serves as Co-President of TradeLab, a network of Universities across the world, modelled on students providing international trade and investment advice to beneficiaries, especially in developing countries. She holds an undergraduate degree in law from the University of the West Indies (Hons); a masters from the University of Cambridge (Hons); and a PhD (summa cum laude) from the Graduate Institute of Development Studies on the Role of the Caribbean Court of Justice in Caribbean integration.

#### Dr. Trisha TANNIS

Dr. Trisha S.M Tannis, Managing Director of the Unicomer (Barbados) Group is a performance driven thought leader in financial and executive management who delivers sustainable results to support the strategic objectives of corporate stakeholders in a socially responsible framework. She promotes a culture of continuous improvement to maintain adaptable and responsive organizations ready for changing market conditions and business demands. She is an experienced finance professional with over 20 years of experience in financial management and corporate governance and was the first female appointed to that office in the Unicomer Caribbean and Latin America Group. Professionally qualified as a Fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, Trisha is also a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute of Canada and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with Honours at the University of the West Indies. In October 2023 she was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Dr. Tannis is in her second term of appointment as Chairman of the Barbados Private Sector Association, the umbrella body of private sector associations in Barbados. She is the first female appointed to this position. She also serves as Co-chair of the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Monitoring Committee and is the current chair of the Regional Risk Management Steering Committee for Unicomer Caribbean. She previously served as President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce for 2019/2021. During her tenure as President, she provided dedicated and exemplary leadership, particularly, during the unprecedented challenges experienced by the business sector as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Tannis also played a lead role in the development of a new strategic mandate for the Barbados Chamber and through her leadership ensured that the Chamber was a more visible and engaged voice of the business community. Trisha is a devout Christian, is happy married to Patrick and is a proud mom to Michael and Abi.

## George THOMAS

George Thomas is the Chief Executive Officer of Sagicor Bank (Barbados) Limited. He is a champion of the digital revolution with over thirty years of experience in the finance and technology sectors.

George has led digital transformation at a Canadian-owned Caribbean bank and was responsible for bringing Internet, Mobile & Telephone Banking and Online Payments to market. He was also the Consulting Lead for digital transformation at two leading mass market retailers and was responsible for the evolution of one of Barbados' newer card products into a digital wallet.

George, a Barbadian national, has worked across the pond, providing executive leadership as far as Dubai. He created the technology strategy and led the mobile money market entry into West Africa of a US fintech company. Under his leadership over 800,000 subscribers were added to the company's mobile money platform and he supported mergers and acquisitions across Europe, the Middle East & Africa. George possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from The University of the West Indies and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering with a concentration in Computer Engineering from Louisiana State University.

## Mi ZHOU

Deputy Director, Institute of American and Oceania Study

Post-Doc in Fudan University, Shanghai, China

Visiting Scholar of Stanford University, USA

Visiting Scholar of Korean International Economy Policy Institute, South Korea

Research fields include: Outward Investment and Cooperation, Trade in Services, International Rules and Agreements

During his 10+ years in CAITEC, Dr. ZHOU's research has covered the Outward investment, International Contracting, International labor cooperation, International Aid, Trade in Services, Multilateral and Bilateral agreement. Till Aug. 2023, he has published 1 book, compiled 1 book as executive editor and has been involved in compiling 10+ books, and published more than 600 articles. He has been responsible for or taken part in more than 200 research projects to support the decision making or consulting for wide range of Ministries, Local governments, International Organizations and enterprises. His researches mainly focus on the government decision-making, negotiation and trends judgment, which give more information for their better understanding the environment, improve the management efficiency, and better allocation of the resources.

## Richard KOZUL-WRIGHT

Richard Kozul-Wright is the director of UNCTAD's globalization and development strategies division. He has worked at the UN in both New York and Geneva and published widely on economic issues, including in the Economic Journal, the Cambridge Journal of Economics, the Journal of Development Studies, and the Oxford Review of Economic Policy. He has co-written books such as The Case for A new Bretton Woods with Kevin P. Gallagher, The Resistible Rise of Market Fundamentalism with Paul Rayment and co-edited volumes of Transnational Corporations and the Global Economy, Economic Insecurity and Development, Securing Peace, Climate Protection and Development and Industrial Policy. He also co-edited Transforming Economies: Making Industrial Policy Work for Growth, Jobs and Development with the International Labour Organization. He holds a PhD degree in economics from the University of Cambridge in the UK.

## Dawei WANG

Dawei Wang is currently an economic affairs officer at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where he works on issues of South-South economic cooperation

and integration, trade, investment and industrial policies, China's development strategies, and global economic governance. Prior to joining the UNCTAD, he served in the Ministry of Commerce of China for over a decade with the portfolio focused on multilateral economic and development policy dialogue and negotiations. He holds advanced degrees in international relations, public administration, and development studies from Peking University, Harvard Kennedy School and the Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID).

#### Ambassador Yan XIUSHENG

2018- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Barbados

2013-2018 Secretary of the Committee of the Disciplinary Inspection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

2010-2013 Counselor of the Embassy of China in the Republic of Kenya

2004-2010 First Secretary, Director, Counselor of the General Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

2001-2004 Consul, Second Secretary, First Secretary of the Consulate General of China in San Francisco, the United States of America

1997-2001 Third Secretary, Deputy Director of the Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

1994-1997 Vice-Consul, Third Secretary of the Consulate General of China in Chicago, the United States of America

1992-1994 Staff Officer, Attache of the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China