



TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS
UN solutions for contactless, seamless, and collaborative transport and trade

Hosted by UNCTAD

In collaboration with UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECA, UNESCWA and UNECLAC

20–24 June 2022, online

Opening remarks - June 20, Day 1



Ms. Rebeca GRYNSPAN

Secretary-General

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Rebeca Grynspan, of Costa Rica, became UNCTAD's eighth Secretary-General on 13 September 2021 and is the first woman to lead the organization.

Prior to her UNCTAD appointment, she was the Ibero-American secretary-general from 2014 to 2021, also the first woman to head the organization. During her mandate, she has coordinated the 22-member Iberoamerican Conference and led four key summits of Heads of State and Government.

In 2010 she was appointed Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and prior to that was UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Grynspan served as Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She was also Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs, and Deputy Minister of Finance. In 2021 she was named Special International Advisor to the newly created Economic and Social Council of Argentina and invited to join as member of the G20 High-Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

Ms Grynspan holds a degree in Economics by the University of Costa Rica and a MSc in Economics by the University of Sussex. She has been awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the University of Salamanca, the





Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA

Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

On 13 April 2017, the Secretary-General appointed Ms Olga Algayerova of Slovakia as the next Executive Secretary of the UNECE. She took office on 1 June 2017.

Ms. Algayerova brings to the position a combination of leadership and diplomatic skills with deep knowledge of the region with its challenges and opportunities and a strong focus on building and nurturing partnerships among key stakeholders with the United Nations. Prior to her appointment, she served as Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria (since 2012). She was previously President, Slovak Millennium Development Goals (2010-2012); State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2006-2010) and Corporate Export Manager, Zentiva International, a.s. (2004-2006).

Born in 1959, Ms. Algayerova holds a Master in Contemporary Diplomacy from Malta University, a Master in Business Administration from The Open University Business School, United Kingdom and a Dipl. in Engineer of Economy from the University of Economics Business Faculty, Bratislava.



Ms. Armida Salsiah ALISJAHBANA

Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is currently the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Prior to joining ESCAP, Ms. Alisjahbana was Professor of Economics at Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung, Indonesia. Since 2016, she has served as Director for the Center for Sustainable Development Goals Studies at Universitas Padjadjaran and Vice Chair of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences.

From 2009 to 2014, she was Minister of National Development Planning and the Head of the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia. She served as Co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation from 2012 to 2014. From 2009 to 2014, she was Alternate Governor of the World Bank and Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank representing the government of Indonesia. In 2016, she was a member of the High Level Independent Team of Advisors to support the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer term positioning of the United Nations Development System.

Ms. Alisjahbana earned her Bachelor degree in Economics and Development Studies from Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia, a Masters degree in Economics from Northwestern University, USA and a Ph.D in Economics from University of Washington, USA. She was awarded the Mahaputra Adipradana Order (Bintang Mahaputra Adipradana) from the Republic of Indonesia, honorary brevet from the Indonesian Navy and honorary flight wing from the Indonesian Air Force.



Mr. Mario CIMOLI

Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

Mario Cimoli is the Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as of April 1, 2022.

Cimoli, a PhD from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom and Full Professor of Political Economy at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice in Italy, has more than 20 years of work experience in the United Nations and ECLAC.

Within the regional commission, he has served as Economic Affairs Officer of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management (1999-2009), Head of that same division's Innovation and ICT Unit (2009-2010), Director of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management (2010-2018), and Officer-in-Charge of the Division of International Trade and Integration (2015-2020).

With regard to his academic experience, he has a long trajectory as Visiting Professor and Researcher at various institutions, such as the University of Udine, the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico (UAM), the University of Pisa, the University of Pavia and the National University of General Sarmiento.

His extensive publication record reflects a substantial contribution to the fields of micro and macroeconomic policies, with a focus on development paths, economic growth and the interconnections between industrial policy, technological development and innovation. His most recent publications include: *Industrial Policies, Patterns of Learning and Development: An Evolutionary Perspective* (2020); *Choosing sides in the trilemma: international financial cycles and structural change in developing economies* (2020); and *A technology gap interpretation of growth paths in Asia and Latin America* (2019). These complement his seminal works: *Learning, Technological Capabilities and Structural Dynamics* (2011); *Innovation and Economic Development: The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies in Latin America* (2010); *Industrial Policy and Development, The Political Economy of Capabilities Accumulation* (with Dosi, G. and J. E. Stiglitz, 2009); and *Institutions and policies in developing economies* (with Dosi, G., R. R. Nelson, and J. E. Stiglitz, 2009).

In addition, he was Co-Director of the Industrial Policy Task Force of Intellectual Property Rights Regimes for Development Task Force, along with Giovanni Dosi and Joseph E. Stiglitz, of Columbia University (2004-present).



Mr. Mounir Tabet

Deputy Executive Secretary
UNESCWA

Mr. Mounir Tabet (Canada) took up his official functions as Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on the 7th of September 2018.

Prior to this, Mr. Tabet served as the UNDP Country Director for Iraq (2016-2018) where he oversaw the program on stabilization and transition.

From 2013 to 2016, Mr. Tabet served as the UN & UNDP Resident Coordinator in Tunisia, providing support to the transition including on electoral support, constitution making, parliamentary effectiveness and anti-corruption.

Previously, Mr. Tabet was the Country Director of UNDP Egypt (2007-2013) where he led support to development efforts. From 2004-2007 he was the Senior Program Advisor in the Regional Bureau for Arab States in UNDP HQ in New York.

Previously, Mr. Tabet was Edward S. Mason fellow at Harvard University – the Kennedy School of Government. There, he completed a Masters degree in Public Administration. He holds a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Ottawa.

Between 1989 and 2003, Mr. Tabet served in a variety of country and HQ positions with UNDP. Prior to joining UNDP, Mr. Tabet worked with the North South Institute and the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa and the University of Ottawa.



Ms. Vera SONGWE

Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Vera Songwe is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Upon her appointment, she became the first woman to lead the institution in its 60-year history.

As Executive Secretary, Songwe’s reforms have focused on developing and implementing “ideas for a prosperous Africa”. They have emphasized the critical importance of macroeconomic stability, innovative finance, private sector participation, the digital transformation, trade and competitiveness in fostering growth and improving livelihoods.

She was listed as one of Africa’s 50 most powerful women by Forbes in 2020 and named as one of the ‘100 Most Influential Africans’ by Jeune Afrique in 2019. In 2017, New African Magazine listed her as one of the ‘100 Most Influential Africans’ and the FT named her one of the ‘25 African to watch’ in 2015. Songwe is acknowledged for her long-standing track record of providing policy advice and her wealth of experience in delivering development results for Africa. She has written extensively on development and economic issues including on debt, infrastructure development, fiscal and governance issues. She is well published and contributes to the development debate across a broad spectrum of platforms including in the Financial Times.

Prior to ECA, she held a number of senior leadership roles with the International Finance Corporation and World Bank.



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Mr. Konstantinos ALEXOPOULOS (MODERATOR)

Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economics
TIR Secretary, Sustainable Transport Division
UNECE

Mr Konstantinos Alexopoulos currently works as Chief of Transport Facilitation and Economics Section of the Sustainable Transport Division of UNITED NATIONS ECE. He is responsible for several UN international agreements and conventions on border crossing facilitation and road transport including the TIR/eTIR , CMR/eCMR, CPD/eCPD, Harmonization Convention etc.

Previously, he worked as Governments Advisor in many development – intermodal transport and logistics projects mainly in Central Asia (Islamic Development Bank, ECO Secretariat Iran, NATO as an expert for Pakistan and Afghanistan).

Kostas also served at top level management positions in various logistics and transport companies: General Manager of QLOGISTICS 3PL Ltd, General Manager of PROCOM Freight Village, Chief Executive Officer of ELOGISTICS S.A.

He was elected Chairman of the Hellenic Logistics Association the official Association of Logistics and Transport professionals in Greece. He is the author of the Freight Transport and Logistics Master Plan of Greece which became Law of the State on transport and Logistics in 2014 and a book in 2020.

He has participated as keynote speaker and expert in many intergovernmental bodies and conferences, has written numerous articles, has given numerous presentations and lectures. He is also author of many publications on intermodal transport and logistics.

Mr. Jonathan VALDEZ, TIR Secretariat

Mr. Elyor KHAKIMOV, Customs Authority of Uzbekistan

Mr. Habib AHMAD, Customs Authority of Pakistan

Mr. Revaz PAPUKASHVILI, Customs Authority of Georgia

Mr. Anil SENMANAV, Turkish Customs Authority



Mr. Yarob BADR (د. يعزب بدر)

Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics
Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster
UNESCWA, Beirut

Born in Damascus on June 1959, Yarob Badr obtained a PhD in Transport sciences from the French National School of Bridges and Roads (ENPC-Paris) in 1991.

He worked as Assistant professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of Tishreen University in Lattakia Syria, where he participated to the implementation of specialized curricula on Transport Engineering and planning.

He was appointed as Minister of Transport in Syria between 2006 and 2011. During his mandate, Public Private Partnership (PPP) operations were implemented in Tartous and Lattakia ports container terminals, with the activation of PPP unit in the Syrian Ministry of Transports and the formulation of PPP long term strategy to attract private investments in all sectors of transport.

Dr. Yarob Badr is currently the Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics in ESCWA since September 2014.

He is coordinating ESCWA activities to formulate a regional strategic vision for the development of future multimodal transport that would improve vital connectivity and regional integration between the Arab countries and the rest of the world.

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Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV (MODERATOR)

Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions
UNECE

Mr. Apostolov provides advisory support for the Trade and Economic Cooperation and Integration sub-programmes of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), concentrating on support to the transition economies in trade facilitation and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). He has been servicing intergovernmental bodies of experts and policy makers in these areas for over 20 years. He has also provided UNECE's support to other regional cooperation networks: in Southeast Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union.



Mr. Mustafa Masi NAYYEM

Deputy Minister of Infrastructure
Ukraine

Mr Naymen Since August 20221 is the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine. Before that he has worked in the State Concern "Ukroboronprom" as a Deputy General Director. As a lecturer and author of courses at the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE, Kyiv School of Economics), as people's Deputy of Ukraine of the VIII convocation, and on the project to launch the Patrol Police in Ukraine. Mustafa Nayyem was one of the curators of the project office of the National Police reform.

In addition he has experience working as a journalist, special correspondent, editor and media manager of leading Ukrainian publishers. He was awarded the "For progress in journalism" prize of Oleksandr Kryvenko and the "Free Press of Eastern Europe" prize of Gerd Bucerius.

Mr. Naymen graduated from the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" where he studied Aerospace Systems. And holds a Master's degree from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.



Ms. Sue PROBERT

Chairperson
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Sue has more than 50 years of experience working in the computer industry as programmer, systems analyst, software designer, trainer, training course designer, presenter, consultant and technical author.

For the past 30 years Sue has focused on the area of paper and electronic documentation production requirements particularly in the international trade and transport arena. Sue is a keen advocate of Trade Facilitation and she believes fervently that, in the future, modern communications methods will play an increasingly significant role in simplifying cross-border trade and governmental procedures.

She is currently a Chair of UN/CEFACT and is the Vice-Chair of the UNLOCODE Advisory Board and represents UNECE at the IMO FAL Committee. She is also Lead Editor of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library and the UN/CEFACT Multi Modal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT).



Mr. Ivan PETROV

President
FIATA

Dr. Ivan Petrov is FIATA President (2021 – 2023), the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations. Ivan Petrov has become the 32nd FIATA President in November 2021.

Ivan has been a very active FIATA member for more than thirty years, serving as Senior Vice President for three consecutive mandates and participating in numerous initiatives focusing on advocacy, training and digitalization within the freight forwarding industry. He used to be a long term WG Rail Chair both within FIATA and CLECAT (its former Secretary General)

Ivan is CEO of Transexpress LTD, Sofia since 1991 and is currently Vice President (former President) of the Bulgarian Association for Freight Forwarding, Transport and Logistics – NSBS.

Ivan Petrov holds a “Doctor of Economic science” degree from the University for National and World Economy. He had specialized in International transport, forwarding and logistics in the USA, Austria, and Germany.



Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV

Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions
UNECE

Mr. Apostolov provides advisory support for the Trade and Economic Cooperation and Integration sub-programmes of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), concentrating on support to the transition economies in trade facilitation and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). He has been servicing intergovernmental bodies of experts and policy makers in these areas for over 20 years. He has also provided UNECE’s support to other regional cooperation networks: in Southeast Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union. He has expertise in national trade facilitation bodies, the Single Window for export, import, and transit clearance, regional trade integration, trade facilitation reforms and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange. Mr Apostolov holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at the University of Geneva. He teaches a course on the Dynamics of Regional Cooperation and Diplomacy at the International University in Geneva. His publications cover such diverse areas as trade facilitation, regional integration, and the geopolitics of Christian-Muslim relations.



Mr. Soteri GATERA

Senior Economic Affairs Officer
UNECA

Soteri Gatera is the Lead Infrastructure Expert and Senior Economic Affairs Officer at The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), headquartered in Addis Ababa. He lectured at the current Ardhi University (Tanzania) from 1986 to 1996 and later became Technical Advisor in Rwanda for the Geneva based Lutheran World Federation from 1997 to 1999. He was appointed Director General of the Rwandan Road Fund from 2000 to early 2010. In July 2010, he joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as a Senior Economic Affairs Officer, heading the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Development Cluster at the UNECA'S Sub-regional office for Eastern Africa in Kigali. From June 2013 to December 2018, he became Chief of the Industrialization and Infrastructure Section at ECA in Addis Ababa. His current focus is the generation of knowledge products specifically touching on business models for transport infrastructure development in Africa.



Mr. Mohamed GHARIB

Monitoring and Evaluation Data Consultant

Mohamed is a monitoring and evaluation Data consultant. Mohamed is an I.T graduate with a Masters in Technology Management from Staffordshire University. He has worked on a number of aid for trade related projects covering Road/Rail Transport, One-Stop Border Posts, Women cross border traders and Manufacturers in the EAC. In 2018, Mohamed undertook a pilot study for the WorldBank Sub Saharan Africa Transport Program (SSATP) using Trucks satellite data to monitor the Northern Corridor border crossing and trip times.



Mr. Aloys RUSAGARA BAYIRO

Former Director of the Transport Policy and Planning program at NCTTCA Secretariat Kenya

Aloys has solid experience in logistics and Port operations. He is the former Director of the Transport Policy and Planning program at Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) Secretariat based in Mombasa, Kenya. Were he assessed the macro-economic trends in the 6 Member States of the NCTTCA (Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda) and their implications on transport infrastructure in terms of road, rail, inland waterways and pipelines capacity needed and advise on suitable strategies for enhancing their regional competitiveness in service provisions. Currently he is a consultant at NCTTCA Secretariat.



Mr. Ricardo SANCHEZ

Senior Economic Affairs Officer
International Trade and Integration Division
UNECLAC

Ricardo Sanchez holds a doctorate in economics and is an internationally recognized expert in maritime and port economics, as well as transportation and infrastructure, with a special emphasis on the Latin American and Caribbean region. He has worked professionally or academically in 30 of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean over 33 years, as well as in Europe and Asia. He is the senior economic affairs officer for the Trade, Infrastructure and Integration Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, where he leads a team of high-level professionals to conduct research and provide technical assistance and training to governments and private organizations in matters of ports and logistics, infrastructure, maritime transport and trade. It has a record of more than 200 publications in total.



Mr. Claudio GARCIA

Chief, Productive Systems Section, Federal Council of Investments
Argentina

Claudio García is an Agricultural Engineer graduated from the National University of La Plata. Joined the Federal Investment Council in 1985 to be part of the Program "Development of agricultural and forestry activities in the Precordillera area"; Later, he specialized in the Formulation and Evaluation of Projects and was a professor on this subject at the University of Belgrano. He served in the CFI as Head in the Areas of Regional Coordination and Budget, New Technologies, and currently in Regional Productive Systems.



Mr. Edgar URRUTIA

President, The Logistics Business Council
Panama

Edgar is a senior executive with close to 30 years of experience in the International Logistics sector and Supply Chain Management. He has have developed extraordinary relationships with global and regional key accounts. Well experienced in implementing turnaround management that accelerates sustainable growth and creates company value. Helping C-level executives and business owners to improve cash flow by reducing cost and optimizing company resources. Chairman of the board of directors of the Panamanian Association of Freight Forwarders 2019-2021. Member of the Advisory Committee of the Logistic Cabinet of the Government of Panama 2021.



Mr. Daniel ALVAREZ

Consultant

Daniel Alvarez has a PhD in Geography, Transport and Territory from the Complutense University of Madrid and a Master's in International Trade Relations and Logistics Management from the National University of Tres de Febrero. As a consultant, he participates in studies and projects on transportation and logistics for various multilateral organizations, the public sector, and companies. He currently works as a professor at various universities.

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Mr. Julian FRAGA-CAMPOS (MODERATOR)

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

Julian Fraga-Campos, works at the United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) as Economic Affairs Officer within the Trade Facilitation Section. His work focuses on actively supporting the implementation of Trade Facilitation initiatives, especially the strengthening of National Trade Facilitation Committees, as well as the development and implementation of Trade Information Portals in Africa and the Pacific Region. Previously, he worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in its Trade Facilitation Team, conducting research and coordinating several Trade Facilitation initiatives.

Julian also has experience working in the private sector, where he acquired international experience in logistics, production systems, managing projects and staff, and engaging with diverse stakeholders. He has a background in agribusiness, holds a Master's in Marketing Management and Distribution Channels from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and a B.Sc. in Agronomy from the Mayor University of Chile.



Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST

Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section
UNESCAP

Azhar Jaimurzina is Chief of the Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Previously Ms. Jaimurzina has worked as Chief of the Infrastructure Services Unit of the UNECLAC, Economic Affairs Officer for the Trade Logistics and Technology Branch of the UNCTAD and Economic Affairs Officer of the Transport Division of the UNECE. She has worked with more than seventy developed and developing countries and transition economies world-wide. In doing so, she provided substantive support to a wide range of the UN intergovernmental bodies and groups of experts, carried out comprehensive UN technical assistance and capacity building projects and drafted or contributed to a large number of UN analytical reports, legal instruments and technical standards on infrastructure development, inland transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation. Ms. Jaimurzina holds a Master Degree in International Law from Université Libre de Bruxelles and a Master Degree in International Relations from University of Chicago.



Mr. Edouard CHONG

Transport Division
UNESCAP

Mr. Chong is an economic affairs officer at the Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division, at ESCAP. He is the secretary for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and his current work focus mainly on road transport, including smart transport and Eurasian Transport Corridors as well as the logistics sector. Prior to joining ESCAP, Mr. Chong was with the International Transport Forum at the OECD and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).



Mr. Sandeep JAIN

Transport Division
UNESCAP

Sandeep Raj Jain is Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok. Prior to joining ESCAP, Sandeep worked for more than a decade with Indian Customs where he was involved in the implementation of various customs modernization initiatives. At ESCAP, he supports the work on strengthening railway transport among the members of Trans-Asian Railway Network as well as implementing initiatives to foster new technologies in transit transport facilitation.



Mr. Armen MANUKYAN

Consultant
Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Currently PM for UNESCAP PM CBTD Project and Business Process Re-engineering Specialist in Avenue Consulting Group LLC for the NSW (National Single Window) environments. His experience also includes being Technical Attaché in World Customs Organization for last seven years up to April 2021. Covered the role of Customs Attaché for Armenian State Revenue Committee for the cooperation with EU DGTAXUD. Were he led several WCO programmes in the area of Implementation/enhancement of Single Window environments in the Member States, enhancement for national Coordinated Border Management projects, Globally Networked Customs development of Utility Blocks and development of standards, guidelines and tools, coordination in the relevant areas with other international stakeholders such as UN CEFAC, ESCAP, COMESA, UNCTAD, ECOWAS, IDB, USAID. Contributed to the development of UN CEFAC standards and Recommendations for trade facilitation focusing on SW and overall digitalization of public services. UN ESCAP expert for Single Window and Exchange of information (WCO-ESCAP Joint Task Force for the development of Utility Blocks). Between 2014-2020 planned and delivered more than thirty regional projects, national capacity building projects, contributed to more than twenty-five projects and events organized by other international stakeholders, delivered feasibility study missions. From 2008-2014 covered various positions in Armenian State Revenue Committee starting from customs officer to top management positions such as Head of International Relations Department and Executive Assistant to Chairman of SRC.

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Mr. Jan HOFFMANN (MODERATOR)

Head, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics
UNCTAD

Jan joined UNCTAD in 2003 and is Chief of the organization's Trade Logistics Branch since 2016. The Branch implements research and technical assistance programmes in international transport and trade facilitation.

Previously, Jan worked six years for the UN ECLAC in Santiago de Chile, and two years for the IMO in London and Santiago.

Prior to this, he held part time positions as assistant professor, import-export agent, and seafarer. Jan has studied in Germany, UK, and Spain, and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hamburg.



Ms. Regina ASARIOTIS

Chief, Policy and Legislation Section
UNCTAD

Regina Asariotis is Chief of the Policy and Legislation Section (Trade Logistics Branch) in the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, where she is responsible for the Secretariat's work in the field of transport law and policy (<https://unctad.org/ttl/legal>). Before joining UNCTAD in 2001, Regina was a Senior Lecturer in Maritime Law and Member of the Governing Board of the Institute of Maritime Law at the University of Southampton, where she taught for more than 10 years. She holds a law degree from the University of Augsburg, an LL.M from the University of Southampton and a Dr. jur. from the University of Hamburg and is a Barrister (England & Wales), an Attorney at Law (Greece), as well as Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb).



Mr. Fedor KORMILITSYN

Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Division, UNESCAP

Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn is an Economic Affairs Officer in the UNESCAP Transport Division. Since his appointment he has been working on the matters related to transport and border crossing facilitation, including support to formulation and implementation of legal instruments. Later he also took lead in UNESCAP's activities on development of multimodal transport and dry ports, serves as the secretary of the Working Group on Dry Ports. Mr. Kormilitsyn holds a degree in law.



Ms. Judith KNIEPER

Legal Officer
UNCITRAL

Judith Knieper is a legal officer at the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna. She services Working Group II on Dispute Settlement, Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform and is responsible for Mediation.

Until her appointment to the Secretariat, she had been working in South East Europe from 1998 -2013 for numerous donors/organizations, e.g. OSCE, CoE, Worldbank and GIZ, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the German international cooperation.

She obtained both Legal State Exams in Frankfurt, Germany as well as her PhD and is also qualified and certified as a Mediator.



Mr. Raoul J. RENARD

Deputy Director of Legal Reform, Digital Standards Initiative,
International Chamber of Commerce

Raoul J Renard is Deputy Director of Legal Reform at the Digital Standards Initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce and Counsellor at the Permanent Observer Mission to the International Chamber of Commerce.

In this role he represents global business in the UN General Assembly and other UN agencies, and leads ICC's efforts to advance legislative frameworks that provide an enabling legal environment for paperless trade.

Raoul also coordinates global business positions for the WTO plurilateral negotiations on the trade-related aspects of e-commerce.

Prior to joining ICC Raoul worked as an attorney in the Melbourne office of Corrs Chambers Westgarth, and at the Australian Federal Anti-Dumping Commission.

Raoul holds a Juris Doctor degree from Melbourne Law School, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne (Philosophy and Mandarin Chinese) and a Diploma of Languages (Spanish).



Mr. Renaud MASSENET

Responsible for the ASYCUDA Programme's Development & Operations
UNCTAD

Mr. Renaud Massenet is responsible for the ASYCUDA Programme's Development & Operations in UNCTAD's Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. He holds an advanced degree in computer Science from Ecole Supérieure d'Informatique, France, and a post-graduate degree in Business Administration from Durham University, UK. More recently he completed MOOC "Gamification" course from the University of Pennsylvania, and on "Leading Strategic Innovation in Organisations" from the Vanderbilt University.

He was involved with automation of government revenue and public expenditures in Haiti in the mid 80s before working in the private sector in ICT / Business Intelligence. He joined UNCTAD to take up the role of Chief Technical Adviser for a customs modernization and automation project in Africa in the late 80's, and he was then instrumental in the setting-up, development and management of the ASYCUDA Programme's regional office for Asia & the Pacific, based in Kuala Lumpur. In that capacity he was closely associated with Customs modernization / automation projects in 20+ countries, including in Sri Lanka.

As the deputy Head of the ASYCUDA programme since 2017 Mr. Renaud Massenet now contributes to charting and aligning ever more closely the orientation of the programme to the changing needs and demands of customs and trade among UNCTAD's membership.



Mr. Richard WARREN

UNCTAD ASYCUDA Programme's Public Information Officer

Richard Warren is the UNCTAD ASYCUDA Programme's Public Information Officer. He has over 15 years experience working for UN agencies, iNGOs, government and in the private sector. Richard holds a BSc in Computing in Business (Brunel University), an MA in European Politics (Brunel University) and a DEA in Political Science (Université de Genève).



Ms. Meena SHAH

Resident UNCTAD/ASYCUDA IT Expert

Meena Shah originally from Nepal, working as resident UNCTAD/ASYCUDA IT Expert based at the regional office Malaysia. Mainly responsible for providing technical assistance and support to the National Customs Services (NCS) in the Asia region for the implementation of their ASYCUDA system.



Mr. Stanley Trief

Manager
Vanuatu electronic Single Window Project

Stanley Trief is currently the Manager of the Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW) Project. The VeSW Project is funded by the Enhance Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government with support from the Vanuatu Government. Using ASYCUDA World as the system's platform, the VeSW Project commenced in 2019.

Prior to managing the VeSW Project, Stanley was the Manager of Vanuatu's ASYCUDA World Project from 2016 – 2018. The Project was to upgrade the Customs system in Vanuatu from ASYCUDA++, which Vanuatu was using since 1999, to the latest version of ASYCUDA.

In the Pacific region, Stanley has conducted multiple Customs modernization assessments in Pacific Island countries since 2006 to 2019, before the borders closed due to the pandemic.

Stanley holds a Bachelor of Science from the New Zealand University of Waikato and a Master of International Customs Law and Administration from the Australian University of Canberra. He is passionate about implementing reform and modernization initiatives in both Customs and in the areas trade of facilitation.



Mr. Julian FRAGA-CAMPOS

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

Julian Fraga-Campos, works at the United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) as Economic Affairs Officer within the Trade Facilitation Section. His work focuses on actively supporting the implementation of Trade Facilitation initiatives, especially the strengthening of National Trade Facilitation Committees, as well as the development and implementation of Trade Information Portals in Africa and the Pacific Region. Previously, he worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in its Trade Facilitation Team, conducting research and coordinating several Trade Facilitation initiatives.

Julian also has experience working in the private sector, where he acquired international experience in logistics, production systems, managing projects and staff, and engaging with diverse stakeholders. He has a background in agribusiness, holds a Master's in Marketing Management and Distribution Channels from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and a B.Sc. in Agronomy from the Mayor University of Chile.



Mr. innocent CHIKUNI

Head Customs Technical Support & Risk Management
Revenue Authority - Customs and Excise Division
Zimbabwe

Mr Innocent Chikuni is currently employed in the Customs and Excise Division of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority as Head Customs Technical Support and Risk Management, specialising in Customs Risk Management, rulings on the HS, Customs Valuation and Preferential Rules of Origin. He has over 20 years of Customs and Trade Policy experience and specifically Trade Facilitation and implementation of Customs Reform & Modernization initiatives. He has recently worked with UNCTAD as the National Consultant in the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Reform Tracker in Zimbabwe. He holds an MPhil degree in Tax policy from the University of Pretoria, an MBA and MPA degrees specialising in both business and public administration. From the University of Zimbabwe.



Ms. Davaa TSENDSUREN

Senior Customs Officer
General Customs Administration of Mongolia

Dr. Tsendsuren Davaa is a senior customs officer and Secretary of the Trade Facilitation Working Group of the General Customs Administration of Mongolia. She has over 26 years of practical and academic research experience in Mongolian Customs. Her career started as an examination officer and promoted team leader, senior officer and deputy director of the department over the last 10 years.

Tsendsuren holds a master's degree in Public Finance from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Study in Japan and she received her Ph.D. degree in Business Administration from the National University of Mongolia. Her customs career development took advantage of the capacity building programme which the WCO developed for its Member Customs administrations.

Over the years she has attended various WCO, WTO and UN workshops and seminars, including a trade facilitation, risk management and customs modernization. In 2017, she was accredited as WCO Customs Technical and Operational Advisor.

To date, her 32 articles and research have been published at the national and international level. Her academic interests include trade facilitation, risk management, customs valuation, customs modernization and coordinated border management. She is a visiting professor of National University of Mongolian and Citi University of Mongolia.



Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV

Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions
UNECE

Mr. Apostolov provides advisory support for the Trade and Economic Cooperation and Integration sub-programmes of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), concentrating on support to the transition economies in trade facilitation and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). He has been servicing intergovernmental bodies of experts and policy makers in these areas for over 20 years. He has also provided UNECE's support to other regional cooperation networks: in Southeast Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union. He has expertise in national trade facilitation bodies, the Single Window for export, import, and transit clearance, regional trade integration, trade facilitation reforms and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange. Mr Apostolov holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at the University of Geneva. He teaches a course on the Dynamics of Regional Cooperation and Diplomacy at the International University in Geneva. His publications cover such diverse areas as trade facilitation, regional integration, and the geopolitics of Christian-Muslim relations.



Ms. Larisa KISLYAKOVA

Chairperson, Partnership for Transport and Logistics in Central Asia, Tajikistan,
UNECE Consultant

Chairperson of the Central Asia Transport and Logistics Partnership
Chairman of the Board of the Tajikistan Union of Professional Consultants
She has thirty years of experience in the field of foreign economic and foreign trade

activities.

She was the head of the Working group on the accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO.
Expert in trade, transport, transit and border procedures services.

Member of the Coordinating Committee for Trade Facilitation of Tajikistan
UNECE consultant



Mr. Oleg PLATONOV

Deputy Chairman
National Trade Facilitation Committee of Ukraine

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Ms. Soo Hyun KIM (MODERATOR)

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim is Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP. She is currently managing capacity building projects on cross-border paperless trade and trade facilitation in the age of pandemics; and supporting the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Previously she worked in the Investment and Enterprise Development Section with research focus on foreign direct investment (FDI) and investment regimes and their impact on sustainable development. She also worked to promote public-private sector dialogue by organizing the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and supporting the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations Secretariat in New York; local government (United Kingdom); and higher education institution (United Kingdom). She holds master's degrees in business administration (specialisation in financial management) from TiasNimbas Business School (Netherlands) and library and information science from Loughborough University (United Kingdom).



Mr. Yann DUVAL

Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Yann Duval is currently Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Section at UN-ESCAP, the regional branch of the United Nations Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Duval has conducted research and delivered technical assistance and advisory services on trade policy and facilitation throughout Asia and the Pacific, including on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. He spearheaded the development of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), as well as, inter alia, the creation of the ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, the UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation and the online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser (TINA). Dr. Duval was also instrumental in the development of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXt) and the negotiation of a new intergovernmental Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, a UN treaty entered into force in February 2021. Prior to joining the UN, he held faculty positions at the Asian Institute of Technology and Washington State University, USA.



Ms. Jiangyuan FU

Consultant
UNESCAP

Jiangyuan Fu is an associate professor at Faculty of Law, Huazhong University of Science and Technology. She is also a consultant at Trade Investment and Innovation Division, UN ESCAP working at UNTF survey and more.



Ms. Soo Hyun KIM

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim is Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP. She is currently managing capacity building projects on cross-border paperless trade and trade facilitation in the age of pandemics; and supporting the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Previously she worked in the Investment and Enterprise Development Section with research focus on foreign direct investment (FDI) and investment regimes and their impact on sustainable development. She also worked to promote public-private sector dialogue by organizing the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and supporting the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations Secretariat in New York; local government (United Kingdom); and higher education institution (United Kingdom). She holds master's degrees in



business administration (specialisation in financial management) from TiasNimbas Business School (Netherlands) and library and information science from Loughborough University (United Kingdom).



Mr. Allan C. GERONIMO

Deputy Commissioner, Management Information Systems and Technology Group (MISTG), Bureau of Customs, the Philippines

Allan C. Geronimo is currently the Deputy Commissioner of the Management Information System and Technology Group of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and is responsible for leading the implementation of various Information Systems projects in the BOC.

He worked in the IT department of various industries like software development, container shipping and logistics service, solutions delivery, healthcare, insurance, and banking. Prior to joining the BOC in March 2019, he was the Vice President for ICT Applications and Software Development at the Development Bank of the Philippines. His longest work experience was with a Hong Kong container shipping and logistics service company called OOCL (Philippines) Inc.

He was a graduate of Computer Engineering and Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University and has a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines.



Mr. John GREGORY

Expert
United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)

A lawyer in Ontario, Canada, for over 40 years, John Gregory practised commercial law with a Toronto firm for several years, then joined the provincial government. As General Counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General, he developed legislation and policy in a number of areas, including alternative dispute resolution, private international law, and information technology. From 1997 to 2013, he was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations (UNCITRAL) Working Group on Electronic Commerce. Since his retirement from the public service in 2016, he has been a legal consultant especially on the law of electronic commerce. He has worked for UN/ESCAP on assessments on legal readiness for cross-border paperless trade in Armenia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Uzbekistan, and also as legal advisor to self-assessment teams on this topic for several other ESCAP member states. He advised the CAREC Institute on e-commerce law and policy in all the CAREC states. Most recently he has been working with the Asian Development Bank on e-commerce law reform in the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia.



Mr. Alvin MAH

Expert

United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)

Mr. Mah Choong Kean (also known as Alvin C K Mah) is a member of the expert team for the United Nations Network of Experts in Paperless Trade and Transport (UNNExT) for Single Window Masterplanning and Public Private Partnerships. Alvin is a seasoned and well-established Single Window expert in the Customs and Trade industry and with more than 20 years of deep knowledge and exposure particularly with the ASEAN region, South Asia region and Central Asia region. His expertise and experience include economic and sectorial analysis (eg. study, research, analysis, design, conceptualisation and policy recommendation, design change management and capacity building plans, business process re-engineering, etc). Such experience also include designing and conducting virtual training on trade facilitation. Other assignments which Alvin has concluded with UNESCAP were on a Belt Road Initiative (BRI) funded project on technical readiness for paperless trade and cross border data exchange for the countries of Mongolia, Myanmar, Armenia and Uzbekistan (2019). The second part of the assignment, which is funded by EIF, involves Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Timor Leste. These assignments involves understanding and analysing the technical readiness of these countries, including recommendations for a National Policy Framework for paperless trade and cross border paperless trade under the UNESCAP Frame Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. He is also attached to UNESCAP as Readiness Assessment - Consultant Technical Expert for Azerbaijan, Lao PDR and Tonga, Georgia, Kazakhstan Vietnam, Tuvalu and Turkmenistan.



Mr. Tengfei WANG

Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Mr. Tengfei Wang joined the UN ESCAP as an Economic Affairs Officer in 2008. Since then, he has been working on the areas related to trade and transport facilitation, digital economy, technology and innovation. Currently, his work is mainly focused on implementation of Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, providing advices to governments and undertaking studies on topics pertinent to trade facilitation, paperless trade and digital economy. His publishes in peer-review academic journals on trade and digital economy and his publications have been cited for over 3,800 times. He earned his PhD from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and was the winner of 'Palgrave Macmillan' global PhD thesis competition (2002-2005).



Mr. Ralf PETERS

Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD

Ralf Peters is the Chief of UNCTAD's Non-Tariff Measures Programme and Officer in Charge of the Trade Analysis Branch in the Division on International Trade and Commodities. He has extensive experience in supporting developing countries with quantitative trade analysis and in trade negotiations. Prior to his current position he was Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO for trade and employment. He holds a Ph.D. in economics and was Assistant Professor for entrepreneurship.



Mr. Revaz TOPURIA

Georgia

Revaz Topuria is one of the founding members of Centre for Economic Prosperity (CEP). He previously worked at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, holding the position of Chief Specialist of Trade Negotiations and DCFTA Coordination Division. Before joining the public service, Revaz was an Executive Director of Europe-Georgia Institute for almost two years. Recently, Revaz worked as Managing Director of one of the UNDP Georgia initiated projects. He is also a lecturer at Free University of Tbilisi and the University of Georgia teaching various courses on politics.

Mr. Edil KALMAMATOV, Kyrgyzstan



Ms. Kimberly BORDON

Technical assistant
ALADI

With a Degree in International Relations from the University of the Republic, Uruguay; and with a Master's degree in International Relations with a focus on Integration, Economics and Politics, as well as studies in Development. Kimberly has five years of experience in international organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Currently, she works as a technical assistant at ALADI within the framework of the UNCTAD-ALADI program for the compilation and classification of Non-Tariff Measures and their incorporation into trade and market access databases.



Mr. Tengiz ASANOV

Deputy Head, Investment Climate Department,
Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tengiz Asanov is Deputy Head of Investment Climate Department of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MIFT). He carries out activity on issues related to establishment of favorable investment climate based on best international practices. This also includes work on improvement of legal framework of investments and trade, international ratings and indices.

Prior to joining the MIFT, Mr. Asanov participated in creating legal and operating framework for PPP projects in the PPP Agency under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He also obtained extensive experience in the banking sector including central banking and commercial banking.

Tengiz Asanov holds BSc in Banking and International Finance from The City University, London and Master of International Law and Economics from The World Trade Institute, Bern.

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Ms. Soo Hyun KIM (MODERATOR)

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim is Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP. She is currently managing capacity building projects on cross-border paperless trade and trade facilitation in the age of pandemics; and supporting the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Previously she worked in the Investment and Enterprise Development Section with research focus on foreign direct investment (FDI) and investment regimes and their impact on sustainable development. She also worked to promote public-private sector dialogue by organizing the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and supporting the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations Secretariat in New York; local government (United Kingdom); and higher education institution (United Kingdom). She holds master's degrees in business administration (specialisation in financial management) from TiasNimbas Business School (Netherlands) and library and information science from Loughborough University (United Kingdom).



Mr. Soteri GATERA

Senior Economic Affairs Officer
UNECA

Soteri Gatera is the Lead Infrastructure Expert and Senior Economic Affairs Officer at The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), headquartered in Addis Ababa. He lectured at the current Ardhi University (Tanzania) from 1986 to 1996 and later became Technical Advisor in Rwanda for the Geneva based Lutheran World Federation from 1997 to 1999. He was appointed Director General of the Rwandan Road Fund from 2000 to early 2010. In July 2010, he joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as a Senior Economic Affairs Officer, heading the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Development Cluster at the UNECA'S Sub-regional office for Eastern Africa in Kigali. From June 2013 to December 2018, he became Chief of the Industrialization and Infrastructure Section at ECA in Addis Ababa. His current focus is the generation of knowledge products specifically touching on business models for transport infrastructure development in Africa.



Mr. Adel A. ALGHABERI

First Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Development and Integration Division, UNESCWA

An Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Development and Integration Division within UN-ESCWA covering various issues including: trade policy, regional integration, WTO issues, trade facilitation, transport and trade logistics issues in the Arab region.

Has more than twenty years of experience in private sector development, investment promotion and regulations, trade diplomacy and WTO negotiations on services, goods and the multilateral rules as well as design and implementation of trade development projects and programmes aiming at enhancing exports and increasing the share of developing countries in international trade.



Mr. Ricardo SANCHEZ

Senior Economic Affairs Officer
International Trade and Integration Division
UNECLAC

Ricardo Sanchez holds a doctorate in economics and is an internationally recognized expert in maritime and port economics, as well as transportation and infrastructure, with a special emphasis on the Latin American and Caribbean region. He has worked professionally or academically in 30 of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean over 33 years, as well as in Europe and Asia. He is the senior economic affairs officer for the Trade, Infrastructure and Integration Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, where he leads a team of high-level professionals to conduct research and provide technical assistance and training to governments and private organizations in matters of ports and logistics, infrastructure, maritime transport and trade. It has a record of more than 200 publications in total.



Ms. Teresa OYHAMBURU

Director of Programs
Federal Investment Council
Argentina

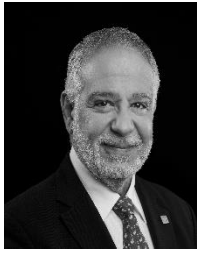
María Teresa Oyhamburu is an agricultural engineer graduated from the National University of La Plata. She worked in the National Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and was head of the Infrastructure and Services Unit of PROSAP, where she specialized in the management of public projects. Today she works as Director of Programs of the Federal Investment Council.



Minister Mr. Joao Carlos Parkinson de Castro

Minister, General Coordinator for Development and Infrastructure of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry

Minister João Carlos Parkinson de Castro: Brazilian diplomat. He joined Itamaraty in the 1980s. He was a Brazilian delegate in the Uruguay Round, and for many years represented Brazil before the OECD and the Paris Club. He was head of the Brazilian delegation to Cosiplan (Unasur) and the bilateral meetings on different issues related to infrastructure works (deep-water port and railways with Uruguay; railways with Paraguay and Argentina; railways with Peru and Bolivia, among others) . He was a Brazilian delegate in different forums of Mercosur, Rio Group, CELAC, Ibero-American, EU-LAC and Summit of the Americas. He is currently the General Coordinator of Development and Infrastructure of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.



Mr. Rodolfo SABONGE

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
Secretary General

Rodolfo Sabonge is an expert in Strategic Foresight, Market Research, and Competitive Intelligence in logistics, transportation, maritime development, and ports. During more than 15 years Sabonge led the areas of Planning, Marketing, and Business Development of the Panama Canal Authority. During his tenure at the Panama Canal, Sabonge led the transition planning of the transfer of the Canal from the U.S. to the Panamanian Government, and later led the demand, market, and economic impact studies that justified the expansion of the Panama Canal.

Sabonge graduated from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana as Mechanical Engineer, continued with graduate studies in Business Administration at the University of Miami, Florida, and has a master's degree in Maritime Development from the School of Law, University of Panama. Sabonge completed an executive program conducted by Stanford University and the University of Singapore in Singapore, and a program on sustaining competitiveness taught by Michael Porter in Harvard Business School. Sabonge is also Research Professor in the Institute of Canal and International Studies at the University of Panama. In the past, Sabonge was member of several committees of the U.S. Transportation Research Board and was also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Logistics & Supply Chain. Recently he led the creation and establishment of the IMO's Maritime Technology Center for Latin America.

In June 19, 2020 he was elected to serve for 4 years as the Seventh Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States, position he assumed on November 1, 2020 until November 2024.



Mr. Frederic GOIG

Director of Straightline

Fred has 30 years of proven international experience in the industry and in aviation around complex and growth projects.

Business school educated he quickly stepped into the industry as Financial controller further to first years' experience in Consulting in Mexico, Spain and France.

From the Automotive, he went into the packaging sector with Pechiney and then Alcan and Rio Tinto. First non-engineer plant manager into a Pechiney Packaging flag ship factory.

Further to that, he went in Russia to set up Greenfield operations and M&A leading him to take responsibility over Central and Eastern Europe.

Looking for different and more entrepreneurial challenges, he gave a 90 degrees in his career joining private equities (Investindustrial and KKR) and stepped into the rotary wing aviation as GM of Inaer Helicopters France.

Fred won the first French Airforce Outsourcing program and first Babcock substantial win outside commonwealth positioning the Group as a major Asset support provider to the French MoD.

Moving to Babcock HQ in London as VP Global Growth he opened China, relaunched Middle East and set the Aviation Strategy in Canada.

Since 2018, Fred is now senior advisor to private equity and investor in disruptive aviation projects.



Mr. Mark DOREY

Co-founder Straightline Aviation.

A graduate of the London School of Economics, Mark is an experienced commercial director. He has held senior international positions at a variety of service industry companies including PepsiCo and trained as a Chartered Accountant with Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers).

On leaving PepsiCo he joined the Virgin Group, where he worked with Mike Kendrick for almost 10 years in the aerial advertising and marketing services division.

As COO of The Lightship Group, he also managed the largest fleet of commercial airships ever operated with responsibility for business strategy and planning.

Mark held the position as Responsible Officer in respect of the Civil Aviation Authority for UK operations and was also a director of the Virgin Airship and Balloon Company and Richard Branson's round the world balloon attempt.

Subsequently, Mark acted as Managing Director of a number of companies in media, marketing and events sectors before joining up with Mike again as a shareholder and director of Mineseeker before co-founding Straightline Aviation.



Mr. Jose BENI

President
Federal Administration of Ports, Argentina

Jose Carlos Beni is a lawyer. He has more than 20 years of experience in the Argentine port sector. He is currently the president of the Argentine Port Council and was president of the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the OAS until 2021. Currently, he is also the president, comptroller of the General Administration of Ports, a federal body for the port administration of the Argentine Republic.



Mr. Nicolás GARCÍA

Governor (a.i.), Department of Rocha, Oriental Republic of Uruguay

Nicolás García was born in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, he is married and has 2 daughters. He has a degree in Agricultural Management from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the Universidad de la Empresa and has postgraduate studies in International Trade in Agribusiness from the University of Belgrano, in Environmental Management of the Territory from the University of the Republic, and in Protection Measures for Coastal Areas, of the Train Sea Coast Program.

He is currently Director of Investments of the Departmental Intendancy of Rocha and, currently, he is the Mayor ad interim for being the first alternate of the Departmental Intendant, Dr. Alejo Umpiérrez, elected for the period 2021-2026. He is the promoter of the binational work for the navigability of Laguna Merín-Lagoa Dos Patos (ROU-Brazil), which has the technical assistance of ECLAC and the UNDAX project.

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Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST (MODERATOR)

Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section
UNESCAP

Azhar Jaimurzina is Chief of the Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section of the Transport Division of the UNESCAP. The Section supports member States in their efforts to develop integrated intermodal transport connectivity by assisting in further development of the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and Dry Ports networks and implementation of the necessary measures to improve the operational efficiency of transport systems, including through common regional frameworks, harmonized technical and operational standards and rules, application of new technologies to cross-border transport and innovations in logistics.

Previously Ms. Jaimurzina has worked as Chief of the Infrastructure Services Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), Economic Affairs Officer for the Trade Logistics and Technology Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Economic Affairs Officer of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She has worked with more than seventy developed and developing countries and transition economies world-wide. In doing so, she provided substantive support to a wide range of the UN intergovernmental bodies and groups of experts, carried out comprehensive UN technical assistance and capacity building projects and drafted or contributed to a large number of UN analytical reports, legal instruments and technical standards on infrastructure development, inland transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation. Ms. Jaimurzina holds a Master Degree in International Law from Université Libre de Bruxelles and a Master Degree in International Relations from University of Chicago.



Mr. Kuancheng HUANG

Consultant
UNESCAP

Kuancheng Huang is a professor at the Department of Transportation and Logistics Management, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University. His research interests are in the areas of supply chain management and revenue management. He has ever served as a senior transport specialist at Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank. He was responsible for the subsectors of aviation and maritime transport as well as the transport issues related to logistics and trade, and regional cooperation and integration. Kuancheng majored in Electrical Engineering for BS and MS at National Taiwan University and UCLA, respectively. He received a PhD degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, with the focus on transportation systems, at Cornell University.



Ms. Vatsalya SOHU

Policy Analyst, the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD

Vatsalya is a policy analyst at the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD. Her current work focuses on projects under the Decarbonising Transport Initiative of the ITF. As a part of the Quantitative Policy Analysis team, she is involved with the research, data collection and analysis of specific policy measures that reduce CO2 emissions from transport.

Vatsalya holds a Bachelor of Economics (with honours) from University of Delhi and a Master of International Economic Policy with concentrations in Emerging Economies and Climate Studies from Sciences Po, Paris.



Mr. Yann DUVAL

Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
UNESCAP

Yann Duval is currently Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Section at UN-ESCAP, the regional branch of the United Nations Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Duval has conducted research and delivered technical assistance and advisory services on trade policy and facilitation throughout Asia and the Pacific, including on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. He spearheaded the development of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), as well as, inter alia, the creation of the ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, the UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation and the online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser (TINA). Dr. Duval was also instrumental in the development of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) and the negotiation of a new intergovernmental Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, a UN treaty entered into force in February 2021. Prior to joining the UN, he held faculty positions at the Asian Institute of Technology and Washington State University, USA.



Ms. Runqiu Du

Consultant
UNESCAP

Runqiu Du is currently a consultant at the UN ESCAP, she has been working on the Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic since 2020. Runqiu has worked as research and teaching assistant focusing on digital trade in China and Switzerland. She received her master's degree in International Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute at University of Berne.



Ms. Gabrielle Marceau,

Senior Counsellor
Research Division (ERSD) of the WTO Secretariat

Gabrielle Marceau, Ph.D., is Senior Counsellor in the Research Division (ERSD) of the WTO Secretariat since 1 May 2020. In September 1994 Mrs Marceau joined the GATT Secretariat and for several years her main function was to advise panellists in WTO disputes, the Director-General's Office, the Secretariat and WTO Members on WTO-related matters. From September 2005 to January 2010, Mrs Marceau was legal advisor in the Cabinet of former WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, and from September 2016 to January 2017, she was acting director, Officer in Charge for Legal Affairs Division.

Gabrielle Marceau is also Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva; she has been Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the Sorbonne in Paris, Monash University in Melbourne, the World Trade Institute in Bern, and many other institutions. Professor Marceau is also involved with associations and groups promoting international (economic) law. Professor Marceau has published extensively in WTO law and international economic law.

Before joining the GATT Secretariat, Gabrielle Marceau, member of the Quebec/Canada Bar, worked in private practice in Quebec, Canada, mainly in labour, insurance law and civil law.



Mr. Abdurahmon Safarali ABDURAHMONZODA

Deputy Minister of Economic Cooperation and Trade of Tajikistan

Mr. Abdurahmonzoda Abdurahmon is Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of SPECA Working Group on Trade. He has been Awarded with the Certificate of Merit of the Government of Tajikistan "For impeccable services in the performance of official duties, development of the economy and trade during the period of state independence of the Republic of Tajikistan." He is a honorable teacher in Faculty of Finance and Economics of the Tajik National University.



Ms. Pamela UGAZ

Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

Pamela Ugaz is an international trade lawyer with over 15 years of experience in trade policy, trade facilitation, regional integration, and project management. She collaborates with the Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD since 2013, conducting technical assistance and capacity building projects towards the implementation of the WTO Trade



Facilitation Agreement in African Asia and Latin America. She also conducts research on trade facilitation topics. Prior to joining UNCTAD, she worked as Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and as Legal Affairs Officer at the World Trade Organization. As legal Adviser to the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade of Peru, she negotiated transparency and dispute settlement provisions in several Regional Trade Agreements between Peru and its trade partners, including the EU, China, the US, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Canada, and the EFTA. Ms. Ugaz holds a Ph.D. in International Trade Law from the University of Geneva and a Master in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.



Ms. Flavia BUSINGYE

Acting Director Customs, East African Community

Ms. Flavia Busingye is the current Acting Director of Customs at the EAC Secretariat with more than 18 years of experience in customs and trade related matters. She has championed a number of trade facilitation initiatives including development and implementation of the Single Customs Territory, interconnectivity of customs systems, development, review of trade policies and other various regional projects and programs within the EAC region.

She has also worked with Rwanda revenue Authority as the Head of Trade Management where she was instrumental in a number of strategic and operational initiatives. She holds a Master Degree in International and Economic Business Law from the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. She has undertaken a number of training programmes in customs, trade, and Strategic Management.



Mr. Joseph NGUENE NTEPPE

Trade Facilitation Expert and former Secretary of the NTFC, Cameroon

Joseph NGUENE NTEPPE is a Doctor of Law, option maritime law and transport, obtained at the University of Nantes in France in October 2007. He is currently Head of the Division of Analysis, Prospective and Cooperation at the Autonomous Port of Douala (PAD).

He was Permanent Secretary of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (CONAFE). As such, he was the National Focal Point of the Observatory of Abnormal practices on the road corridors of Central Africa and with certain international organizations, such as UNCTAD, the WTO and the IMO, in the area of trade and transport facilitation.

He successfully completed the UNCTAD training for Coordinators transit nationals. He is also Secretary General of the Cameroon Law Association. Maritime (ACDM) and Instructor in the Modern Management Certificate Program Ports (UNCTAD Train for Trade Programme). He was Director of Trade Facilitation and the Observatory of Transport at the Cameroon National Shippers Council (CNCC).

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Ms. Celine BACROT (MODERATOR)

Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section
UNCTAD

Celine Bacrot is an Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD. She has over 20 years of work experience with a focus on trade, regional integration and trade facilitation. From 2003 until 2008, she worked in UNCTAD as focal point of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (IF) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on the formulation of trade strategies and coordination of UNCTAD technical assistance. Afterwards, she spent more than 10 years based in East Africa working for several UN agencies (UN-Habitat and UNICEF) and set up a consultancy firm in Arusha, Tanzania, working on trade projects, mainly regional integration, trade development strategies, and trade facilitation in the EAC region and Asia-Pacific. Since 2014, she has been the regional coordinator for the UNCTAD Trade Facilitation project in East Africa. She has a Master in Economics with a specialization in Economic Development as well as a Degree in Political Science, Development and Co-operation from the University of Paris-La Sorbonne.



Mr. Mark ASSAF

Chief, Human Resources Development/TrainForTrade Section
UNCTAD

Mr. Mark Assaf is the Chief of the Human Resources Development Section–TRAINFORTRADE at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He holds a Master's in Economics from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium).

Mr. Assaf has over 20 years of experience in International Institutions and private sector multinationals. He oversees major programs in the field of International Trade Statistics, E-Commerce, and Port Management to support sustainable economic development.

Mr. Assaf believes in building sustainable networks of knowledge to enhance national ownership and international cooperation as per SDG 17. He is a strong promoter of digital solutions and innovative thinking to enhance the capacities of international trade players. He dedicates his efforts to support development-oriented trade policy to reduce poverty and to promote transparency and good practices within UN member states.



Mr. Rafa COMPANY

Director of Safety and Security
Fundación Valenciaport

Mr. Rafael Company is Director of Safety and Security at the Valenciaport Foundation. He is Chemist and Biologist by the University of Valencia (1995) and he hold a Master in Environmental Sciences and Master.

Moreover, Mr. Rafael has over 20 years when he joined the Port of Valencia (Spain) related to the environmental, safety and security fields coordinating the assigned activities in these projects, creating different networks and participating as speaker in International Forums, Congresses and Conferences. Mr. Rafael is member of the TRANSSEC (Transport Safety and Security European Group). In this regard, he has cooperated on the ENISA guidelines focus on “good cyber practices on cybersecurity in ports”.



Mr. John MOORE

Port Specialist

John Moore has been involved in the port sector for more than 40 years. He spent ten years as a Director with Dublin Port Company, Ireland’s busiest port, from 2007 to 2017, during which time the port had record year-on-year trade and revenue growth. He holds a Masters in Economic Policy Studies and a BA in Management. He represented Ireland’s ports on Eurostat’s port statistics committee and was also a member of the European Seaports Organisation’s Statistics and Economics Committee. He has been the focal point for the Island of Ireland ports involved in the UNCTAD Port Management Programme since its foundation in 2007. Some of his previous roles include Head of Internal Audit and Procurement Manager. He is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and is a Chartered Director. John is very active within UNCTAD’s TrainForTrade Port Management Programme where he contributes to curriculum development and is a qualified trainer of port managers in developing countries. He recently prepared a policy brief for ports on managing the flow of vital imports and exports during the pandemic.



Mr. Bryan HABIB GAUTAMA

Directorate General Customs and Excise of Indonesia

Mr. Habib Gautama is currently a customs and excise officer at the Indonesia Customs Headquarters. For 4 years, he served at the largest customs office in Indonesia, Customs Office of Tanjung Priok in the Human Resources Section. He was part of the Database Team, the COVID-19 Task Force, Service Integration Formation Team, and The Research Team during the COVID-19 Pandemic. For his innovations in respect of human resource management, he was named one of the Top 5 Best Civil Servant Awards within the Directorate General of Customs and Excise of Indonesia in 2021.



Mr. Elar Julio SALVADOR GRANDA

Head of the Port Training Unit
Perú

Retired Merchant Marine Officer and Frigate Captain of the Peruvian Navy, with 22 years of experience in the National Maritime Authority, having held relevant positions as Port Captain and Commander of Coast Guard Units. He graduated from the Master in Environmental Management for Sustainable Development. Since 2006 he has worked at the National Port Authority of Peru and for 8 years he has served as Head of the Port Training Unit and Coordinator of the Port Management Program - UNCTAD in Peru. Qualified as Maritime Expert, Instructor of IMO courses, Principal Instructor of the Port Worker Development Program (PdP – ILO) and Instructor of the TFT Port Management Program. He has represented Peru in various International Forums.



Ms. Frida YOUSSEF

Chief of Transport Section at Trade Logistics Branch
UNCTAD

Frida Youssef is the chief of the Transport Section within the Trade Logistics Branch at UNCTAD. She started her career at UNCTAD in 1997. Frida has more than twenty-five years of professional experience in areas related to trade logistics, commodities, finance and sustainable development which gave her the opportunity to build, lead and motivate research and technical assistance programmes, geared towards developing countries, in broad range of issues including commodities supply chain and finance, maritime transport cost, shipping and ports, transit transport and corridors, and cross-cutting issues such as sustainability and climate change, finance and investment, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and gender. She is a co-author of the UNCTAD annual Review of Maritime Transport. Frida holds an MBA from Boston University and an MA in International Affairs from the Hautes Etudes Internationales - Paris.



Ms. Hassiba BENAMARA

Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Section, UNCTAD

Hassiba Benamara is a maritime transport and trade economist. She has 24 years of experience in transport and trade logistics. She holds a graduate degree in Economics and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Ottawa (Canada).

Since joining UNCTAD in 2005, Hassiba has been responsible for various files dealing with maritime transport and trade. She contributed to articles and book chapters focusing on maritime transport economics, security, and sustainable shipping and co-authored 17 editions of the *UNCTAD annual Review of Maritime Transport*. Areas of work include seaborne trade, port developments, climate change mitigation and adaptation; transport costs; supply chain security, sustainable freight transport and corridors, maritime supply chain resilience.

Before joining UNCTAD, she has been working for the Canadian Ministry of Transportation in the international shipping and international trade divisions, respectively. Areas of work included marine insurance and liability, arrest of ships, maritime liens and mortgages, maritime security, antitrust immunity, liner conferences, cabotage, and logistics services trade liberalization.



Mr. Michael ACHAGWE LUGUJE

Director General, Ports and Harbours Authority, Ghana

Mr. Michael Achagwe Luguje is a port management and trade facilitation specialist. He was appointed as the Director General of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) in July 2018. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Luguje was the Secretary General of the Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) from August 2012 to June 2018; Executive Secretary of the Pan African Association for Port Cooperation (PAPC) from August 2012 to February 2017; and the Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa, of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) from April 2007 to June 2012.

In April 2022, Mr. Luguje was elected as Vice President for the African Region of the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH). He will serve in this capacity till May 2023 when he will be due for re-election.

Mr. Luguje is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and a member of the Board of Directors of the Ghana Maritime Authority.

Mr. Luguje holds a Bachelor's Degree in French/Linguistics from the University of Ghana, MSc in Maritime Affairs (Port Management) from the World Maritime University, Malmo, Sweden, and an Executive MBA in Project and Strategic Management from the Paris Graduate School of Management (France).



Ms. Zera ZHENG

Certified Business Resilience & Safety/Security Professional
Maersk

Zera Zheng is the Head of Business Resilience in Lead Logistics at Maersk. Her vast experience in building robust business resilience programmes and managing disruption responses has ensured the continuity of customer supply chains, through intervention activities.

In 2020, Zera and her team created resilience programs for supply chain logistics, which were awarded the Business Continuity Institute Award. In 2021, Zera spearheaded the invention of the Maersk Supply Chain Resilience Model, a tool that facilitates customers in shoring resilience in their supply chains.



Mr. Vinícius PATEL

Port Administration Director
Port of Açú
Brazil

A business executive with more than 15 years of experience in the port, oil and gas, and logistics fields. He held positions of President Director, Financial Director, and Logistics and Supply Chain Project Manager in companies such as BRASKEM and GranEnergia. He joined the Port of Açú in 2017 and since 2019, occupying the position of Director of Port Administration at Porto do Açú Operations, being responsible for maritime, infrastructure, HSEQ, and institutional relations at the port, with the challenge of operating and developing Açú efficiently and safely, complying with the best ESG practices. Vinícius holds a degree in business administration from the Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina (UDESC) and an MBA in business management from INSPER.
