



Version 3: 9 December 2021

# 6<sup>th</sup> BioTrade Congress: Trade and biodiversity for a positive future



9 December 2021  
12–3 p.m. (CET), Online

## Opening remarks



**Ms. Isabelle Durant**, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Isabelle Durant, of Belgium, took up the position of Deputy Secretary-General on 3 July 2017. She served as Acting Secretary-General from 16 February to 12 September 2021. Since she joined UNCTAD, Ms. Durant has relentlessly contributed to making international trade more inclusive and greener. She has also been an advocate for gender equality. Ms. Durant has been heavily involved in the socio-economic response of the UN to the coronavirus crisis, by leading the work of UNCTAD which covered a broad range of interrelated issues including finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

A former vice prime minister and senator of Belgium as well as vice president of the European parliament, Ms. Durant possesses solid experience in public affairs, intergovernmental processes and providing concrete assistance to countries. Ms. Durant also served as minister of transport and energy in Belgium for four years and chaired alongside the government of the time, the presidency of the European Union (EU) and particularly the presidency of the EU Council of Transport Ministers. As vice president of the European Parliament for the period 2009 to 2014, Ms. Durant chaired different permanent delegations, such as that of EU-African, Caribbean and Pacific countries following the Cotonou Agreement and other economic partnership agreements. Born in Belgium in 1954, she holds a master's degree in economic and social policy from the country's Universite Catholique de Louvain.

SPEAKERS

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**Mr. Martin Peter**, Deputy Head of Trade Promotion, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, Switzerland

Martin Peter is the Deputy Head of Trade Promotion at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. Previously, he held various positions in SECO's development cooperation and bilateral economic relations divisions. Between 2014 and 2019, he was the Director of Swiss Economic Development Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Peru. Before joining SECO, Mr. Peter worked on issues related to international trade, labor conditions, vocational training, as well as social conflicts in the private, public as well as in the NGO sectors in Switzerland, Nepal and Peru. He holds a MAS in International Cooperation and Development of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and a MA in International Relations of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.



**Mr. Markus Lehmann**, Acting Director, Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Dr. Markus Lehmann is an economist by training and is currently the acting Director of the Scientific, Society and Sustainable Futures Division of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, being responsible for work programmes on biodiversity mainstreaming, finance and resource mobilization, business engagement and agriculture. Amongst his past accomplishments, he was part of the core team preparing the report for national and international policymakers under the global initiative on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), and was the coordinating lead author of chapter 6 of this report, on subsidy reform. Prior to joining the United Nations, he held various research and teaching positions in economics in Germany, including with Free University Berlin, the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. He published extensively on various aspects of environmental and resource economics. He holds a doctorate in economics (Dr. rer. pol.) from Free University Berlin, Germany.

### High level panel: Trade and nature's contribution to people



**Ms. Mohalgo Flora Mokgohloa**, Deputy Director General, Biodiversity and Conservation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa

She has over 25 years environmental management experience in the public service from national, provincial to local government where she held various senior management positions. Since 1 December 2021, she assumed position of Deputy Director General for Biodiversity and Conservation in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) after having served in the same department as the National Project Manager for the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). In her career, she has led environmental legislative review, policy development and facilitation and project implementation to improve the quality of the environment, especially in biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. She is a graduate in the fields of natural sciences and engineering management and has interest in the intersection of nature, livelihoods and financing biodiversity.



**Ms. Ivonne Higuero**, Secretary-General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Ivonne Higuero is an environmental economist with a career spanning 29 years in international organizations focusing on sustainable development. She is passionate about demonstrating the economic value of biodiversity to spur investment in nature. During her 27 years with the United Nations, Ms. Higuero has managed and provided oversight to the implementation of programmes related to sustainable development and provided secretariat services to intergovernmental bodies, particularly in the field of environment and biological diversity. With the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, she has been responsible for ensuring the alignment of a variety of UN programmes to support countries in meeting their international commitments, including through cross-sectoral cooperation. Ms. Higuero has experience working with UN Member States at the global, regional and national levels, and engaging with civil society and private sector stakeholders.

The Secretary-General is a national of Panama and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Missouri and a master's degree of Environmental Management in Natural Resource Economics and Policy from Duke University.



**Mr. Simon Zadek**, Chair, Finance for Biodiversity initiative, Senior Advisor, Task Force on Nature related Financial Disclosures

Dr Zadek is Chair of Finance for Biodiversity (F4B) and Advisor to the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). He led the UN Secretary General's Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs, was Finance Advisor in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General, and led the G20 green finance secretariat under the Chinese, German and Argentinian Presidencies. He was on the International Advisory Board of Generation Investment Management, had advisory roles at the World Economic Forum, was CEO of AccountAbility, Visiting Professor at the Singapore Management University, and senior fellow at Tsinghua School of Economics and Management and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He has advised corporations, governments and multi stakeholder initiatives, and published extensively, including the award-winning book, *The Civil Corporation*.



**Mr. José Luis Naula**, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ecuador

Mr. Naula is B. A. in International Relations and Political Science of USFQ International. He has conceptual clarity about international relations and science policy with application in the management and international negotiation of financing from international cooperation (non-refundable, refundable) as well as technical for projects related to sustainable development and linked to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and specifically related to themes on climate change and bioeconomy. Previously, he was the coordinator of the Bio-business Center – BIOemprende (Alliance MAE - UTPL - SENESCYT - CORPEI - AEI) (October 2019 – February 2020) and Responsible for International Cooperation with Europe, Multilaterals and Banking Funds (February 2018 - February 2019). He has participated in several seminars such as: Bioeconomy, its Potential and challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture; Introduction to Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa:

Advancing REDD + (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), International Legal Regime on Climate Change, among others. (\*\*upon request, Mr. Naula spoke at the end of the panel)

## Parallel session 1: Unpicking the value chain: challenges and experiences in traceability



**Mr. Peter Schmidt**, Senior Adviser in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Chains, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

Peter Schmidt is an agronomist with over 30 years of experience in development cooperation including long term field positions in India, Kyrgyzstan and most recently Myanmar, where he served as Helvetas Country Director 2017 – mid 2021. He has provided short term advisory services to projects in some 30 countries and is currently Senior Adviser in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Chains based at Helvetas Head Office in Zürich.



**Mr. Harol Gutierrez**, CITES Flora Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Peru

He is a Biologist, Doctor in Biological Sciences, Master in Tropical Botany, has a diploma in Management and Defense of Natural Resources, a specialization in the analysis of Functional Diversity and a Diploma in Ecosystem Restoration. He has more than twelve years of professional experience in the public and private sectors. He currently works at the Ministry of the Environment as specialist in CITES-Flora and is in charge of the implementation of the CITES convention within the framework of the functions of the CITES-Peru Scientific Authority. He has represented Peru in international dialogue spaces such as CITES and in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Likewise, he develops activities as a botanical researcher in taxonomy, systematics and ethnobotanical studies, he has contributed with new species of grasses and orchids for science, including new records for the Peruvian territory. He actively publishes in indexed scientific journals on botany, taxonomy and systematics, among others.



**Mr. Michiel Hendriksz**, Executive Director, FarmStrong Foundation and member of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

A responsible sourcing guru, Michiel Hendriksz has served as the Executive Director of FarmStrong Foundation, an organisation that designs, implements, and monitors integrated agricultural production systems and rural development programs in the cocoa and coffee belt countries. Previously, Michiel worked 16 years for the trading company ADM, most recently as the Director of Sustainability for ADM Cocoa (2009-2015). He previously held several roles such as the Head for Cocoa Trading West Africa. Before that, Michiel Hendriksz worked for various trading positions based in Spain, England and in Indonesia. Michiel Hendriksz has a B.Sc. in Tropical Agronomy and International Trade (Netherlands), a M.Sc. (Agri-Business) from Cranfield University (England), and a degree in Executive Education from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is fluent in Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Italian and English, with in-depth subject matter expertise in Tropical Agriculture, Sustainable Rural Development, CSR and ESG. (Ex) Board/Steering Group member of: WCF, ICI, TWC, TRECC, IDH, SWISSCO, ICCO-CB.



**Moderator: Ms. Jane Carter**, Senior Advisor, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

Jane Carter is Senior Advisor, Natural Resource Governance at Helvetas, Switzerland and is responsible for developing the forestry, biodiversity and landscape management portfolio. She holds a doctorate in rural development forestry and a first class honors degree in agricultural and forest sciences - both from the University of Oxford, UK. With over 35 years of professional experience and a strong commitment to socially inclusive, sustainable development, she combines a practical ground-based perspective with a strategic, global outlook. Jane has lived and worked in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal - conducting field research, managing projects and programs, and providing advisory inputs. Her most recent overseas assignment was as Director, Programme Development for Helvetas Nepal April 2017 to September 2020. She has also undertaken short term advisory assignments in many countries of Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe – particularly Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

## Parallel session 2: Biodiversity and BioTrade: Evolving tools and approaches



**Mr. Rik Kutsch Lojenga**, Executive Director, Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)

Rik has been the Executive Director of UEBT since its creation in 2008. He is an expert on sustainable BioTrade in support of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He spent more than a decade with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where he was involved in the creation of the BioTrade Initiative and helped to conceptualise the idea of UEBT. He has also served as the Board Chair of ISEAL, the umbrella group for sustainability standards. Rik grew up in the Netherlands, where he earned a master's degree in business and environmental economics.



**Ms. Simona D'Amico**, Monitoring and Evaluation and Biodiversity Expert, Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)

Simona manages UEBT's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) program and supports UEBT members' efforts on biodiversity conservation and restoration. Simona holds a PhD in Rural Sociology from Wageningen University. She has worked on European research projects on policies for organic farming and sustainable food systems, as well as the valorisation of agrobiodiversity through sustainable agrifood chains.



**Ms. Annette Piperidis**, Manager Sustainable Sourcing, Weleda

Annette Piperidis is Manager Sustainable Sourcing at Weleda AG. Since 2013 she is in charge of several cross-divisional projects within the Weleda Group. One of her tasks is to strategically implement the UEBT-guidelines within the company itself as well as for suppliers of Weleda Group. Since starting out at the company in 2008, Annette Piperidis has worked in various functions at Weleda. Prior to her current position she was a strategic buyer of excipients.



**Mr. Gastón Vizcarra Kennedy**, Co-founder and President, Candela Peru

Gaston Vizcarra Kennedy is Co-Founder and President of Candela Peru, a fair trade export organization with over 30 years of existence. He focuses on elaborating export trading strategies, developing value added products and building sustainable value chains based in non-traditional raw materials from the Amazonian Rainforest, which are offered to niche markets around the world.



*Moderator:* **Ms. María Julia Oliva**, Deputy Director and Senior Coordinator for ABS and Policy, Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)

Maria Julia Oliva is Deputy Director & Senior Coordinator for ABS and Policy at the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) since 2009. In this capacity, she provides training, advice and technical support for UEBT members and partners on issues such as equitable trade practices and access and benefit sharing. Julia has held several positions in international organizations and published widely on the interface between sustainability, trade and intellectual property. She is a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and the Board of Directors of IP-Watch, an independent reporting service on intellectual property issues. She has a law degree from the University of Mendoza and a Masters of Laws (LL.M) in environmental law, cum laude, from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.

### Parallel session 3: Oceans economy and Blue BioTrade



**H.E. Mr. Colin Murdoch**, Ambassador and Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Mr. Murdoch, who is a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, had been serving as a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda since 2016. He was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration from 2014 to 2016, a post he also held from 1995 to 2009. He was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce from 2009 to 2014.

Mr. Murdoch has also served as the Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States since 2011, and as Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the World Trade Organization since 2013. He was a Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1982 to 1986, and a Senior Foreign Service Officer from 1989 to 1994. He also served as non-resident Ambassador to Cuba from 1997 to 2004.

Mr. Murdoch has a master's degree from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, United States; a graduate diploma from the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; and a bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.



**Ms. Claudia Contreras**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Claudia Contreras is an Economic Affairs Officer at the Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD. She has more than 18 years of experience in sustainable development and science, technology, and innovation policy. Before working on trade and environment issues, Claudia was a member of the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) for seven years. Claudia holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Chile and graduated with an MSc in Management Research and a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Oxford.



**Mr. Milton Haughton**, Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Milton Haughton is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), a specialized CARICOM institution responsible for sustainable development, management and conservation of marine living resources and aquaculture in the Caribbean region. He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, University of Buckingham, London Metropolitan University and the University of Law, London. He has nearly 40 years work experience in fisheries and marine resource management and governance in the Caribbean.





**Ms. Ximena Velez**, PhD, Managing Director of Peru programs, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Ximena is a marine scientist with 16 years of research and conservation experience in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, I am the managing director of Peru programs of the Center for Conservation and Sustainability for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and lead Principal Investigator for MarineGEO Peru's coastal observatory. In close collaboration with Peruvian and international scientists and conservation practitioners, I investigate the influence and impact that man-made infrastructure and port operations have on nature, from species to ecosystems, to identify best practices and science-based solutions.



*Moderator:* **Mr. René Gómez-García**, Senior Executive and Head of Green Business Unit, development bank of Latin America (CAF)

René Gómez-García Palao is Senior Executive and Head of the Green Business Unit at the development bank of Latin America (CAF). He was State Minister for Public Works and Services of Bolivia (2003-2005). He was also Director of Hydrological basins and land at the Ministry of Sustainable Development in Bolivia, as well as the National Coordinator of the Capacity 21 Programme of UNDP. He has more than 27 years of experience in the implementation of irrigation programs in the United States and in various Latin American countries. He has also taught in several private and public universities in Bolivia. He holds a PHD in civil and environmental engineering from the University of California at Davis and a MS in Agriculture and Irrigation Engineering at Utah State University, both in the United States. He is a civil engineer graduated at the Technological Institute of Monterrey, Mexico.

#### Parallel session 4: Circular bioeconomy



**Mr. Kari Herlevi**, Project Director, Circular economy for biodiversity, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra

Kari Herlevi is a circular economy multitalent. He is currently leading the circular economy area at Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund. There, he is focusing on the transition to a fair and competitive economy that tackles the root causes of biodiversity loss, climate change and overconsumption of resources, by facilitating the development and scaling up of the best circular solutions from Finland and the world. Previously, Kari led the Green Growth programme at Tekes, which was associated with the circular economy and had a financing volume of more than 100 million euros. He also has experience of Silicon Valley, where he had the privilege of working with the best people in the field. Kari has master's degrees in finance and political sciences.



**Ms. Apoorva Arya**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Circular Innovation Lab and former Ellen MacArthur Foundation India Coordinator

Apoorva Arya is an award-winning entrepreneur, deeply committed to creating a positive impact in the world. She is the founder of Circular Innovation Lab, a Danish think-tank based out of Copenhagen, that works with National governments, UN agencies, and International Organisations to create solutions that drive the circular economy transition. In 2020, as part of the organization's mission to foster innovation, she launched ShopC, a marketplace for circular products in the fashion and lifestyle segment. Previously she has advised and worked on projects on circular economy, public policy in both the private and public sector in organizations such as KPMG, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and the Indian Government across several geographies in Europe and Asia.



**Ms. Marta Gomez San Juan**, Lead Expert on Bioeconomy, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Ms. Marta Gomez San Juan is an agricultural and biosystems engineer in FAO's Office of Climate, Biodiversity and Environment. She currently acts as strategic advisor to FAO's new 10-year programme on Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture. Marta works with policy-makers to develop national and regional bioeconomy strategies and develops knowledge products on sustainable and circular bioeconomy practices and policies. Since 2016, she has been coordinating the 'International Sustainable Bioeconomy Working Group', a knowledge-exchange platform focused on sustainable transformation of agri-food systems, including through emerging biological innovations and technologies. The Working Group and the FAO project were created after 62 Ministers of Agriculture at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in 2015 called FAO to coordinate international work on sustainable bioeconomy.



**Moderator: Mr. Henrique Pacini**, UNCTAD

Henrique Pacini is an economist at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, where he works on trade and circular economy issues. He has a degree in economics from the University of São Paulo, a Masters in European Studies from Hochschule Bremen, Germany, and a PhD in Energy Technology from KTH, Sweden. He recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University, where he examined the commercial dynamics of secondary materials in world trade, and co-chaired Harvard's first Circular Economy Symposium. Dr. Pacini published over 30 articles on environment, trade and development issues, and is passionate about photography, an art which he often uses in conjunction with his work.

## Parallel session 5: BioTrade sustainability through standards and certification schemes (tbc)



**Mr. Khorommbi Matibe**, Chief Director: Biodiversity Economy and Sustainable Use

Mr. Khorommbi Matibe is a senior manager at the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Mr. Matibe's has vast experience in the Tourism and Biodiversity sectors, and he currently leads the Biodiversity Economy and Sustainable Use sector portfolio of South Africa which includes the Presidential Programme Operation Phakisa: Biodiversity Economy.



**Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni**, ABS Focal Point Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, South Africa

Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni is the Acting Director at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and has more than 15 years of working experience in the field of bioprospecting, access and benefit sharing policy development and implementation in South Africa. She is also actively involved in the international agenda on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). She is a National Focal Point for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS under the Convention on Biological Diversity and a Publishing Authority for Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance. She is currently a Co-Lead for the Advisory Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

She is an Environmentalist by profession and also passionate about Access and Benefit Sharing principles in relation to genetic resources and their associated traditional knowledge.



**Mr. Mathieu Lamolle**, Senior Advisor, International Trade Centre

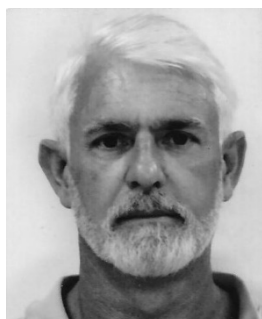
Mathieu Lamolle has over 15 years of experience in international trade, market access and sustainable development issues. He holds a Master's degree in International Economics and Management from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS) and speaks English, French and Spanish.

Mathieu works at the International Trade Centre (ITC) as senior advisor on sustainability standards and global value chains. He leads the development of the Standards Map global repository of sustainability standards, codes of conduct and audit protocols ([www.standardsmap.org](http://www.standardsmap.org)) and he coordinates partnerships with private industry groups, companies and NGOs on the use of Standards Map. He delivers technical assistance and offers advisory services to develop sustainable sourcing strategies, helping companies to integrate sustainability in their supply chains and access international markets.



**Ms. Emily King**, Business Engagement Officer, Fairwild Foundation

Emily King is the Business Engagement Officer of the FairWild Foundation—a nonprofit initiative with the mission to secure a fair and sustainable future for wild plant resources and the people who depend on them. She works with current and potential FairWild businesses to help them to make the most of their certification, as well as wider communication and promotion around the importance of sustainable sourcing and the FairWild Standard.



**Mr. Neil Crouch**, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa

Neil Crouch Ph.D is a Deputy Director in the Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring Directorate of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). After working as an ethnobotanist for more than a quarter century he now leads the Bioprospecting Economy work of SANBI, working closely with the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFEE). This is through diverse efforts: revision of Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit-Sharing (BABS) legislation, development of the environmental component of a certification system for South Africa, Biodiversity Management Plans, Non-Detriment Findings, resource assessments, and the implementation of harvesting guidelines. He works closely with stakeholders, including industry associations, to promote the sustainable use and development of plants from South Africa, and also with international initiatives (e.g. ABioSA, BIA) that sustainably develop the local biotrade and bioprospecting industries. He has a special interest in realising the conservation of biodiversity through Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanisms.



**Mr. Soundrapandi Jeyaram**, Project Officer – UNDP, National Biodiversity Authority, India

Mr. Soundrapandi holds an M.Phil and a Ph.D in Botany with specialization in Plant Taxonomy from the University of Madras. Since 2012, he is at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, India in various capacities viz., as Expert Consultant (2012-15) under Biological Diversity Rule 12(6); Project Officer (2015-18), GoI-UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative; and Project Manager (2018-2020), ASEAN-India Cooperation Project under the ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF). He is currently assisting the NBA/MoEFCC in implementing the BIOFIN Extended Phase II (2021-25) in India addressing biodiversity solutions such as (i) Mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance; (ii) Corporate Social Responsibility towards biodiversity; (iii) ABS as Finance mechanism; and (iv) FINTECH for biodiversity.



**Mr. Suhel al-Janabi**, ABS Capacity Development Initiative/BioInnovation Africa

Suhel al-Janabi, with German and Arab roots, is an expert in biodiversity-based value chain development at the interface to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol. He is among other duties Co-Manager of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative which he has accompanied since its foundation in 2005 and lead technical advisor of the BMZ funded BioInnovation Africa Project. He followed the CBD process since 2000, from 2006-2014 as a member of the German negotiating delegation. He studied Geography, Ecology, and Economics and taught at the University of Bonn and Abidjan. He worked for several worldwide operating organizations, such as the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Bonn Convention under the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP-CMS). He is a member of the Advisory Committee on Communication of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CEPA IAC) and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (IUCN CEC). In addition, Suhel acts as Executive Director of GeoMedia GmbH, a consulting for Environment, Communication and Development, based in Bonn. One regional focus of his advisory activities is Africa and the MENA Region.



**Moderator: Ms. Preshanthie Naicker**, Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, South Africa

Ms. Naicker is with the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment as Project Director for a UNDP/GEF 6 Project on Value Chains Development. Her experience and networks span across biodiversity, water and sanitation, and entrepreneurship. Recently, Ms. Naicker made South Africa's Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young Professionals.

## Closing remarks



**Ms. Lorena Jaramillo**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Lorena is an Economic Affairs officer of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) dealing with trade and biodiversity issues. She has been involved with the sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services, including BioTrade, since 2001 at the international level with UNCTAD and also in her home country Ecuador as the Director of the national BioTrade Programme. She has worked on developing and implementing sustainable development projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America regarding biodiversity, sustainable trade and business development. During her career of over 20 years, Lorena has written many papers related to sustainable development, trade and biodiversity, value chain development, sustainable sourcing, among

others. She is an Economist, specialized in Sustainable Development, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador and holds an MBA from the HEC, Geneva University, Switzerland.

### Congress host and moderator



**Ms. Nisha Pillai**, Journalist

Nisha Pillai is an accomplished news presenter who worked with the BBC World News for 25 years. Her areas of expertise span a wide range of subjects including economics, finance, IT and the energy sectors. She is also adept at covering health and social issues and has worked closely with several UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNIDO and UNAIDS. Nisha enjoyed a twenty five-year career at the BBC as a news anchor and investigative reporter. For several years, she was one of the main news anchors at BBC World News and fronted the acclaimed programme, *Asia Today*. She was awarded the Royal Television Society's Award for best current affairs programme for 'The Max Factor' – her investigation into the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell's sprawling business empire, which was broadcast a month before his death. Nisha was also one of the first regular interviewers on *Hard Talk*, the BBC's half-hour long interview programme.