

The Handbook on Carbon Taxation for Developing Countries: a tool to advance countries' decarbonization efforts and contribute to the commitments of the Paris Agreement

**Virtual Panel Discussion and Launch Event
25 October 2021, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (New York time)**

Biographies of Speakers

Mr. Navid Hanif – Introduction speech



Mr. Navid Hanif is the Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). He is also the UN sous Sherpa to the G20 finance and main tracks. He joined UNDESA in 2001. He was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He served as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch and later Director in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support. He was the first head of the DESA Strategic Planning Unit established in 2010. He was Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Vice-Chair of the UN High Level Committee on Programming (HLCP) and Co-Coordinator of the UN team on repositioning of the UN Development System that led to major reforms in 2018. He has contributed several articles on financing and investing in the SDGs in various journals and reports. He holds MIA, International Political Economy, Columbia University (NY), & M.A., English Literature, Government College University (Lahore).

Mr. Per Fredrik Pharo – Opening remarks



Mr. Per Fredrik Pharo is the Director of Partnerships and Shared Prosperity at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). He has a degree in History from the University of Oslo. He joined Norad in 2021 from the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment where he has spent 13 years managing the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's tropical forests. Prior to that he worked in the Norwegian Ministry of Defence on defence policy and planning, at the Norwegian Permanent Delegation to NATO, and at McKinsey & Co.

Ms. Natalia Aristizabal – Launch of publications and Moderator



Ms. Natalia Aristizabal is an Inter-regional advisor on financing for sustainable development in UNDESA. Prior to taking that position, she worked as a consultant for the World Bank, the UN, the IMF, and the IADB, focusing on tax treaty policy and negotiation, exchange of information, and tax law reform. From 2017 to mid-2021, she was a member of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, having coordinated its Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation. From 2011 to 2018, she worked as an advisor to the Director General of the Colombian tax administration (DIAN), heading the tax treaty negotiation team and coordinating the taxation work carried out for the purposes of the accession of Colombia to the OECD. She previously worked as a tax practitioner for various law firms in Colombia.

Ms. Marlene Patricia Nembhard Parker - Panelist



Ms. Marlene Patricia Nembhard Parker is the Chief Tax Counsel for Legislation, Treaties and International Tax Matters with the Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ). Her main role is to advise the Government of Jamaica on domestic tax legislation and international tax related matters as well as to guide the passage of domestic and international tax instruments into law. She is Jamaica's chief delegate to both the OECD's Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Tax Information, and the BEPS Inclusive Framework. She is a past member of the Steering Group of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Ms. Susanne Åkerfeldt - Panelist



Ms. Susanne Åkerfeldt has more than 25 years of governmental experience in managing projects on energy and climate policy design, working as a Senior Adviser for the Swedish Ministry of Finance. Her key focus has been to ensure the use of cost-efficient policy measures on the road towards a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient society. She has been instrumental in fine-tuning the design of the Swedish carbon tax since the 1990s as well as pursuing green tax reforms. Susanne serves as Sweden's lead EU negotiator on energy and climate taxation issues and has worked extensively to improve and coordinate the design of EU legislation to better reflect the Polluter Pays Principle and to encourage the increased use of environmental taxes. She has been engaged in global climate policy within the framework of the UN, with a focus on creating better policies for emerging and developing economies, as well as within the World Bank Group's Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. She has, in her capacity as an official at Swedish Ministry of Finance, been an expert member of the Former Subcommittee of Environmental Tax Issues under the UN Tax Committee and a lead drafter of core chapters in the Handbook. Currently, she is taking up a temporary assignment as a police officer at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, primarily working on the proposal on a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Mr. Rodrigo Pizarro - Panelist



Mr. Rodrigo Pizarro is an economist from the London School of Economics and holds a PhD from Stanford University with over 20 years' experience working on environmental issues. He was the former Head of the Environmental Economics Division of the Ministry of the Environment of Chile (2014-2018), where he was responsible for developing the Chilean Sustainable Consumption and Production Program, developing the Chilean System of Environmental Accounts and designing and implementing the first Environmental Tax in Chile, among other major initiatives. Currently he is an independent consultant at COTA21 working for the World Bank, IADB, and other international organisations.

Ms. Caroline Lombardo – Closing remarks



Ms. Caroline Lombardo serves as Chief of the International Tax and Development Cooperation Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UNDESA. She leads the UN teams that provide policy and capacity support in the area of tax and domestic resource mobilization, as well the secretariats to the UN Tax Committee and the UN Development Cooperation Forum. She is also an Editor of the UN Handbook on Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development and has worked in other positions in UNDESA and in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Caroline did her post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University, where she helped design and launch the Program in Grand Strategy and its multidisciplinary graduate course addressing large-scale, long-term strategic challenges of statecraft, politics and social change. Caroline was a British Marshall Scholar and earned a DPhil and MPhil in International History and Politics from the University of Oxford and Bachelor's degree in Ethics, Politics & Economics from Yale University.