



**United Nations**

*Economic and Social Council*



**Financing for Development**

## **Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

8 April 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (New York time)

### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

(See the programme [here](#))

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

#### **H.E MR. COLLEN VIXEN KELAPILE**



His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile was elected the seventy-seventh President of the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2021. He is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Kelapile has a career of 26 years in multilateral diplomacy, both as a government representative, intergovernmental expert and is also a former United Nations (UN) Secretariat staff member. Between 2014 and 2018, he was the Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. From 2013 to 2014, he served as the Deputy Director in the Department of Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana overseeing Central, East, North and West Africa as well as the Middle East. Ambassador Kelapile served in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana in New York from 1998 to 2003.

#### **Ms. AMINA J. MOHAMMED**



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the environment. Ms. Mohammed first joined the United

Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon being responsible for the post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She began her career working on the design of schools and clinics in Nigeria and advocated on increasing access to education and other social services, before moving into the public sector, where she served as adviser to four successive Presidents on poverty, public sector reform, and sustainable development. Ms. Mohammed has been conferred several honorary doctorates and has served as an adjunct professor, lecturing on international development. The recipient of various global awards, Ms. Mohammed has served on numerous international advisory boards and panels.

## **MS. LISELOTT MARGARETA KANA**



Ms. LiseLott Kana is a graduate of Stockholm University. In 1984 she obtained a Master of Law degree from the London School of Economics. She worked in London for Arthur Andersen & Co until 1989, and since 1990 she has been involved as a public official with international issues in Chile. In 1997, she was appointed Head of International Taxation in charge of negotiating taxation treaties at the Internal Revenue Service of Chile. She was a member of the Permanent Scientific Committee of the International Fiscal Association (IFA) until 2008 and was a founder and president of the IFA branch of Chile in 2004. She has also been a president of IFA Latin America and Co-Chair of the UN's Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. She is a delegate for Chile to the taxation work at the OECD. She also teaches international tax at the Catholic University in Santiago and at the Vienna Akademie der Wirtschaftstreuhänder in Austria.

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## PANEL 1: THE FUTURE OF CORPORATE TAXATION IN A DIGITALIZED AND GLOBALIZED WORLD

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### MS. BELEMA OBUOFORIBO



Ms. Belema Obuoforibo is the Director of the IBFD Knowledge Centre, and Chair of the Centre for Studies in African Taxation (CSAT). She is also a Member of IBFD's Executive Board. Ms. Obuoforibo is a noted teacher, writer, and editor in the field of international taxation. She is the author on Treaty Residence for the notable Global Tax Treaty Commentaries. Ms. Obuoforibo serves on the editorial boards of several leading international tax publications, including the Bulletin for International Taxation, and the European Taxation journal. She is also a visiting lecturer in tax law at several universities in Europe and Africa.

### MR. MATHEW GBONJUBOLA



Mr. Mathew Olusanya Gbonjubola is the Group Lead, Special Tax Operations of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Nigeria). He is a chartered accountant, chartered tax practitioner and a holder of an MBA. He has held several positions in tax audit, tax investigation, tax policy, transfer pricing and international tax functions before his current posting. Mr. Gbonjubola is a Co-Chair of the UN's Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, Co-Vice Chair of the Inclusive Framework, Co-Chair of OECD Working Party 6 (on Transfer Pricing); Co-Coordinator of UN Transfer Pricing Sub-Committee and Nigeria's delegate to G24 Working Group.

## MS. YAN XIONG



Ms. XIONG Yan is Deputy Director-General of the International Taxation Department, State Taxation Administration (STA), China. She joined the STA International Taxation Department in 2003 and has spent most of her career in this department, where she has worked in areas of treaty, transfer pricing, exchange of information and international cooperation. Apart from international taxation, she had one-year experience in domestic tax policy making a 15-month experience in the field of tax collection and administration. Ms. XIONG is a member of the current and the previous UN Tax Committee and is STA's chief negotiator to the multilateral discussion under the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on addressing tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy.

## MR. STEPHEN COAKLEY-WELLS



Trained as an economist and a lawyer, Mr. Stephen Coakley-Wells has over 25 years of broad international legal, financial services, international taxation and regulatory compliance expertise. He is the founder of the FIRST Group of Companies and is internationally recognized as a thought leader and subject matter expert on the regulatory and governance standards and codes underpinning global financial markets, particularly those in low tax jurisdictions. A skilled negotiator, with outstanding diplomatic poise, he enjoys the trust and confidence of governments and his peers around the globe. Mr. Coakley-Wells has acted as a consultant on financial services development, defining regulatory strategy and advising governments and international financial institutions on new financial sector regulation, correspondent banking risks (De-risking), financial sector integrity and consumer protection. His work advances the viewpoint of low tax jurisdictions in the area of financial sector development and reform, transparency, prudential supervision and international tax policy.



## MS. MARILOU UY



Ms. Marilou Uy is Director of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24). She manages the Group's work program and is the focal point on engagements with international forums, such as the G20, G77 and the UN. Previously, Ms. Uy was a Senior Adviser to the Managing Director at the World Bank. While at the World Bank, she held senior management roles, such as Director for financial and private sector development in the Africa and South Asia Regions, and financial sector policy and operations globally.

## MS. GRACE PEREZ-NAVARRO



Ms. Grace Perez-Navarro is the Deputy Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. She plays a key role in all of the OECD's tax work including the tax challenges of digitalisation, the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project, improving international tax cooperation, tackling illicit financial flows, promoting better tax policies and engaging developing countries in OECD tax work. Since 1997, she has held several key positions in OECD, including having led the OECD's tax work on bank secrecy, e-commerce, harmful tax practices, money laundering and tax crimes, countering bribery of foreign officials, and strengthening all forms of administrative cooperation between tax authorities. Prior to OECD, she was a Special Counsel at the IRS Office of the Associate Chief Counsel (International) where she coordinated guidance to field offices on international tax issues, oversaw litigation of international tax issues, negotiated TIEAs and treaties, and reviewed regulations, rulings and other policy advice. In 1993, she was seconded to the OECD to launch the revision of the OECD's Transfer Pricing Guidelines.

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## RESPONDENTS

### MS. LEE SHEPPARD



Ms. Sheppard is a contributing editor, known for her commentary on the international consensus, treaty issues, transfer pricing, and European tax developments. Ms. Sheppard is one of the most widely read and respected tax commentators in the world and has been a mainstay of *Tax Analysts'* publications for 30 years. She studied law, and specialized in cutting-edge financial issues, such as derivatives and hedge funds, and taxation of multinational corporations. She is frequently asked to speak on tax subjects. She has appeared on television shows such as *60 Minutes* and *Frontline*, as well as in the documentary *We're Not Broke*. She also writes a blog for Forbes.

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## PANEL 2: TACKLING TAX ASPECTS OF ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### DR. IBRAHIM ASSANE MAYAKI



Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki of the Republic of Niger is the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), formerly known as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency since January 2009. A former Prime Minister of Niger, from 1997 to 2000, Dr. Mayaki holds a Master's degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap), Quebec, Canada and a Ph.D in Administrative Sciences from the University of Paris I, France. He worked as a Professor of Public Administration in Niger and Venezuela. From 1996 to 1997, he was appointed Minister in charge of the African Integration and Cooperation and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger. In August 2000, he established the Analysis Centre for Public Policy in Niger. From 2000 to 2004, Dr. Mayaki was a guest Professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on international relations. He also led research at the Research Centre on Europe and the

Contemporary World within that university. He served as Executive Director of the Platform in support of Rural Development in West and Central Africa, the Rural Hub, based in Dakar, Senegal.

## **DR. MUHAMMAD ASHFAQ AHMED**



Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed is a career IRS Pakistan officer and currently the Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue, Pakistan. He holds a Master's in English (Language & Literature) from the University of Punjab, MS in (Economic) Policy Analysis from Saitama University, Japan and Ph.D in Political Economy from the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad / University of Washington, Seattle, USA. His Doctoral dissertation explores into the elite capture and its interplay with the extractive function from a Neo-Marxist lens of state autonomy in a comparative Pakistan-United States context. Dr. Ahmed has to his credit the World Bank Fellowship (1998-00), Fulbright Fellowship (2003-04), Charles Wallace Fellowship (2009-10) and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship (2010-11). His research interests include political economy of international taxation, tax reforms, state's extractive system, state autonomy, state building, state capacity and governance.

## **MS. BJØRG SANDKJÆR**



Ms. Bjørg Sandkjær has been a State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for International Development at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2021. She has a broad background in international development, particularly in the fields of global health, human rights and aid effectiveness. Prior to her current position, Ms. Sandkjær served as the deputy leader of the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare of the Oslo City Council. She has 20 years of experience working in the areas of global health and human rights and has held positions at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the Church of Norway. As State Secretary, she is deeply committed to development issues, and maintains a particular focus on global health and the eradication of hunger, climate change and environmental issues, human rights, and the global development architecture. Ms Sandkjær holds a Master's degree in Demography from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and an undergraduate degree from the University of Oslo.

## MS. TARJA VALSI



Ms. Tarja Valsi is a Deputy Director of the Finnish Tax Administration and Head of Anti-Shadow Economy since 2016. From 2021 to 2015, she was the audit director in Uusimaa Tax Auditing Unit (Capital area). She has been an Audit leader and Tax auditor since 1994 and a member of Finland's leading forums for shadow economy and financial crime prevention for years. She is a member of group which prepares and implements the governmental resolution on a strategy and an action plan for tackling shadow economy and economic crime in Finland. Ms. Valsi has extensive experience with national (e.g., workstreams against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, Human Trafficking, Professional Enablers) and international networks (e.g., OECD Task Force on Tax Crimes and Other Crimes, Nordic Agenda/TFTC, European Platform tackling undeclared work/Finland). She holds a Master of Economics degree from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

## MÁRCIO FERREIRA VERDI



Mr. Márcio Ferreira is an Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations –CIAT. He was also the Director of Operations and Tax Studies in the same institution. He is a former Tax Auditor of the Federal Administration of Revenues of Brazil. Mr. Ferreira studied Economics, International Economics and Advanced Quantitative Methods in the University of Brasilia (Brazil). He has a postgraduate degree in Theory and Operation of a Modern Economy from the Institute of Brazilian Business and Public Management Issues, at George Washington University – U.S.A. Moreover, he is a specialist in Preparation and Evaluation of Public Service Concession Projects from the “State University of New York”, USAID; Washington and New York, USA; and Specialist in “Analysis and Negotiation of Built Operate and Owner and Built, Operate and Transfer Projects – Alternative Strategies for Infrastructure Development”, from The American University, Washington, D.C.



## MS. IRENE OVONJI-ODIDA



Ms. Ovonji-Odida is a human rights lawyer and development actor with 34 years' policy making, advocacy and leadership experience in the public sector and civil society. She has focused on illicit financial flows, tax justice and financial transparency on the AU/ ECA Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa (Mbeki Panel), UN FACTI Panel, South Centre Tax Steering group, ICRICT, Pan African Lawyers IFF Task Force and Tax Justice Network Africa. As an elected legislator in the East African Legislative Assembly, she championed fair global trade and inclusive, accountable regional integration. She was also Board Chair of ActionAid International.

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### RESPONDENTS

## MR. ALEX COBHAM



Mr. Cobham is the Chief Executive of Tax Justice Network, an international organization established in 2003 to ensure that tax and financial systems support social justice within and between countries. Mr. Cobham is an economist who has conducted research on tax and inequality at Oxford University, the Center for Global Development, Christian Aid and Save the Children, and has also consulted for a range of UN agencies. His recent books include *The Uncounted* (Polity Press) and *Estimating Illicit Financial Flows* (Oxford University Press). Mr. Cobham is a member of the Scottish Government's Poverty and Inequality Commission.

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## MR. ROLA DASHTI



Ms. Dashti, is the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and member of the Supreme Planning Council in Kuwait. From 2012 to 2014, she was Minister for Planning and Development and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. She played a pivotal role in advocating for the decree to allow Kuwaiti women to vote and run for parliamentary elections, and in May 2009, she with three other women became the first women to be elected to Kuwait's parliament. She has also held key positions in research and development institutions such as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and worked with the National Bank of Kuwait and the World Bank. She holds a doctorate degree in population

dynamics from Johns Hopkins University-Baltimore, a master's degree in economics and finance from California State University-Sacramento, and a bachelor of science in agriculture economics from California State University-Chico.

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## CLOSING REMARKS

### MR. LIU ZHENMIN



Appointed on 26 July 2017, Mr. Liu Zhenmin of China serves as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. Liu brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

