

# 2025 Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Friday, 28 March, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (New York time)  
(See the programme [here](#))

## Speaker Biographies

### Morning Meeting

#### OPENING REMARKS

#### H.E. MR. BOB RAE



H.E. Mr. Bob Rae is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York. He has served in this post since August 4, 2020. Since assuming this role has been active in all aspects of the work of the UN, culminating in his election to the Presidency of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2024-25, the second Canadian to assume this role, and joins Lester Pearson (President of the General Assembly 1952-53) and George Davidson (ECOSOC 1958-59) as Canadians elected in their personal capacity to preside over UN Charter bodies. Mr. Rae served as Premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995, and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

from 2011 to 2013. He was elected to federal and provincial parliaments eleven times between 1978 and 2013. He has been honoured by the alumni of both bodies for his distinguished service. Mr. Rae received his Honours B.A. in Modern History from the University of Toronto, an M.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College in Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1977. He was a Lecturer in the Faculty of Business (1976-77) and also served as assistant to the Canadian General Counsel of the United Steelworkers from 1975 to 1977. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in February in 1980 and was named a Queen's Counsel in 1984.

## MR. LI JUNHUA



Mr. Li Junhua is the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 25 July 2022. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Li was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. He brings to the position perspectives and visions on fostering multilateral economic and social cooperation, with a commitment to engage with all parties to further implement the 2030 Agenda including dedication to serve Member States. He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS etc. As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Li oversees DESA’s policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

## MS. LISELOTT KANA



Ms. Liselott Kana is a law graduate from Stockholm University and a Master of Laws graduate from London School of Economics. She worked in London for Arthur Andersen & Co and since 1990 she has been involved as a public official with international trade and tax issues in Chile. In 1997, she was appointed Head of international taxation in charge of negotiating taxation treaties at the Revenue agency. She was a member of the permanent scientific committee of IFA until 2008 and a founder and president of the IFA branch of Chile in 2004. She has also been a president of IFA Latin America and she is Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. She teaches international tax at the Catholic University in Santiago and at the Vienna Akademie der Wirtschaftstreuhänder in Austria.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### MS. MARIA JOSÉ GARDE

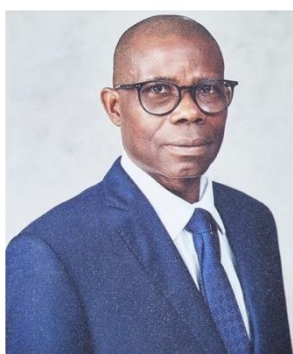


Ms. Maria José Garde is, since 2018, Director General of Taxation at the Ministry of Finance in Spain. As Director General, she is responsible for the analysis and design of the global policy of public revenue, in relation to the tax system, both national and international. She has extensive work experience in international taxation. She has served as chair of the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes from 2017 to 2022. Since February 2023, Ms. Garde is Chair of the Code of Conduct Group, the UE Council preparatory body that oversees the implementation of the EU's Code of Conduct on Business Taxation. She was recently appointed (December 2023) Deputy Chair of the Bureau of the OECD Committee on Tax Affairs, where she has been a member since 2015. She is also involved in the work for the negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

## Panel 1: Promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation

### MODERATOR

### MR. MATHEW GBONJUBOLA



Mr. Mathew Olusanya Gbonjubola is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria. He holds a Higher National Diploma in Accountancy and Masters of Business Administration. He has about 30 years' experience in taxation including tax audit, tax investigation, tax policy, transfer pricing and international tax functions. He rose to the rank of Director in the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigeria before his latest appointment as a Coordinating Director. Mr. Gbonjubola has an extensive exposure and track record in international taxation, holding key positions in various prominent tax bodies such as the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, where he serves as Co-Chair, the G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), where he holds the role of Co-Vice Chair, and the G24 Working Group on Taxation. Additionally, he has contributed significantly to the work of African regional tax bodies. In recognition of his expertise and achievements, Mr. Gbonjubola was honored as one of the World's Top 50 Tax Persons for the year 2022 by the International Tax Review (ITR).

## Part 1: Challenges and Opportunities to Strengthen Domestic Resource Mobilization

### PANELISTS

#### MR. RAMESH NARAIN PARBAT



Mr. Ramesh Narain Parbat, a senior officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) from the 1989 batch, has held key positions across India in tax assessment, investigation, enforcement, and litigation. Over the course of his career, he has overseen tax audits, investigated cases of tax evasion, and performed appellate functions, including representing the Income Tax Department before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). His experience spans both domestic taxation and India's engagements in international tax matters, contributing to the evolution of tax policies, compliance frameworks, and dispute resolution mechanisms. As Member (Legislation), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Mr. Parbat provides strategic direction in the formulation and implementation of India's tax policies. He steers India's engagement with global tax forums such as the OECD, G20, and UN, ensuring tax policies align with international standards and national economic objectives. His role involves guiding legislative reforms, strengthening compliance mechanisms, and addressing emerging challenges in taxation, including cross-border transactions and the digital economy.

#### MS. CHENAI MUKUMBA



Ms. Chenai Mukumba is the Executive Director at the Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA). She is based in Nairobi, Kenya and overall provides strategic leadership and direction to deliver on TJNA's mission and vision in its various thematic areas. Chenai has a master's in International Relations from Wits University, Johannesburg and a master's in Taxation from the University of Oxford. TJNA is a research and advocacy organisation with a robust network of civil society organisations with the united effort of leading tax justice voices across the continent. Through its Nairobi Secretariat, TJNA collaborates closely with its member civil society organisations to curb illicit financial flows and promote progressive taxation systems. In partnership and collaboration with other regional economic governance institutions, TJNA advocates for tax policies with pro-poor outcomes and tax systems that curb public resource leakages and enhance domestic resource mobilisation. TJNA's vision is to see a new Africa where tax justice prevails and ensures equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development.

## MR. BEN DICKINSON



Mr. Ben Dickinson is Deputy Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, where he plays a key role in all OECD tax work, in particular on advancing inclusive and effective international tax co-operation. He has led efforts to support developing countries' active engagement in the OECD's international tax standard-setting work, helping to strengthen tax systems, combat illicit financial flows, and promote investment and growth. He is the architect of initiatives such as OECD/UNDP Tax Inspectors

Without Borders (TIWB) and the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, a global effort with the IMF, UN and WBG to strengthen collaboration on domestic resource mobilisation. Since joining the OECD in 2005, Ben has worked at the intersection of taxation and governance, pioneering the OECD's efforts on tax and development. Previously, he served as senior economic governance specialist for the UK government, living and working in Kenya, Pakistan, Indonesia and Ukraine. He holds a Master's degree in Development Economics from the University of Manchester, UK.

## RESPONDENT

## MR. ENRIQUE BOLADO



Mr. Enrique Bolado is a lawyer and since 1997 has worked in the Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit. He is currently the General Director of International Treaties and is the head of the tax treaty negotiation team in Mexico. He is a member of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, has participated as a Mexican delegate in different Working Groups at the OECD and in 2019 was appointed a member of the Bureau of the Committee of Fiscal Affairs at the OECD. Domestically, Enrique is in charge of proposing reforms to the Mexican tax legislation related to international tax, including measures related to taxation of non-residents and controlled foreign company (CFC) rules. Enrique has been a speaker at different international tax events and

has been a consultant to different organizations in order to bring capacity building to tax officials of developing countries.

## *Part 2: Taxation of Cross-Border Services – a multi-faceted approach*

### PANELISTS

#### MR. THULANI SHONGWE



Thulani Shongwe is the Head of African Multilateral Cooperation at the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF). He is responsible for ATAF's relationship with the African Union Commission and the policy organs focused on tax policy. He is also the head of ATAF's Delegation to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation and the OECD Inclusive Framework. He is also part of the ATAF Executive Committee, a board member of the Rakobela Group, and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Development Finance Practitioners. Before joining ATAF, Mr. Shongwe worked for the South African Revenue Services, Nestlé, and Mafuri Mining Resources.

#### MR. MARCIO FERREIRA VERDI



Mr. Marcio F. Verdi is an economist and retired tax auditor of the Federal Revenue Service of Brazil. Mr. Verdi is the Executive Secretary of the InterAmerican Center of Tax Administrations – CIAT. He has specialized in International Economics in the University of Brasilia (UnB). He holds a Postgraduate degree in Theory and Implementation of a Modern Economy, from the George Washington University – GWU of the “Institute of Brazilian Business and Public Management Issues”, Washington, D.C. U.S.A. Mr. Verdi held important positions in the Brazilian government, among others, General Management Coordinator of State-owned Companies, and has sat on countless Boards of Brazilian state-owned companies in different sectors. He has served in the distinguished position of Member of the National Commission for Privatization, responsible for the Program on Privatizations, Public Services Concessions and Public and Private Sector related Projects. In the Federal Revenue Secretariat of Brazil (RFB) he has held the different positions, among them being the General Tax Policy Coordinator, from June 2002 to July 2004. He was advisor to the RFB Secretary on the development and assessment of the Brazilian tax policy. He has lectured and presented in different international meetings in over 60 countries and has been honored with the Nóe Winckler Tax Auditor's Merit from the Federal Revenue Secretariat of Brazil in November, 2002.

## MR. JOHN CONNORS



Mr. John Connors is Tax Counsel in Vodafone Group plc. and the Chair of International Chamber of Commerce Global Tax Commission. With a long and distinguished background in both the public and commercial tax environment, John is now senior tax counsel at Vodafone Group plc, having been global head of tax there for more than a decade, and represents global business interests for the International Chamber of Commerce. John trained as a tax inspector with HMRC and became Director of their Large Business Customer Unit after secondments to the European Commission, where, over three years, he primarily supported the work on the EU's Code of Conduct for business taxation, and a similar period as head of HM Treasury's international corporate tax unit. John is also a Council Member and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee at the University of Sussex and a member of the Institute for Fiscal Studies' Tax Law Review Committee.

## Afternoon Meeting

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

## H. E. MR. LOK BAHADUR THAPA



H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa is the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, he assumed the office of the Permanent Representative (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary) of Nepal to the United Nations since 01 September 2023. He presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations on 1 September 2023. Mr. Thapa has served in a number of positions during a long spell of his diplomatic career spanning more than three decades after he joined the Foreign Service of Nepal in 1990. He was the Ambassador of Nepal to the BENELUX (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg) as well as the Head of Mission to the European Union from 2016 to 2020. During his stint in Brussels, he also served as the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), and Center for the Promotion of Products from Developing Countries (CBI).

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### MS. JENEBA J. BANGURA



Ms. Jeneba J. Bangura is a highly accomplished Chartered Public Accountant with extensive experience in public financial management. She served as the Deputy Commissioner General of the Sierra Leone National Revenue Authority (NRA) from 2018 until she was appointed Deputy Minister of Finance 1 in 2023. Later that same year, she was appointed Commissioner-General of the NRA. In this role, Ms. Bangura has demonstrated exceptional leadership, driving critical reforms that have not only ensured the achievement of revenue targets but also strengthened the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the organization. Her commitment to gender equality in taxation, innovation and fiscal responsibility continues to position the NRA as a key player in Sierra Leone's economic development.

## Panel 2: Promoting Gender Inclusivity through Tax Policy Design and Implementation

### MODERATOR

### MS. CAREN GROWN



Ms. Caren Grown is a Senior Fellow in the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution where she leads a program on gender equality and sustainable development, focusing especially on the intersection of public finance, climate change, and care. From 2014-2021, she served as Global Director for Gender at the World Bank Group and then as Senior Technical Advisor in the Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, where she developed a workstream on taxation and gender equality. Prior to the World Bank, she was economist-in-residence and co-director of the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics at American University. During her career, Grown held senior positions at USAID, the Levy Economics Institute at Bard College, and the International Center for Research on Women. She has developed and co-led several large research projects, including the UNU-WIDER program on aid effectiveness and gender equality, the three-country Gender Asset Gap Project (based at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India), and the seven-country Taxation and Gender Equality Project (American University & University of KwaZulu Natal) and has published widely on fiscal policy, trade, development, gender data, and health.



## Part 1: Understanding Gender Impacts in Tax Systems

### PANELISTS

#### MR. ANDERS STRIDH



Mr. Anders Stridh works as a strategist and has over thirty years of experience in change management within the Swedish Tax Agency at a strategic level. He co-leads the OECD FTA Gender and Diversity Network, role he shares with a colleague, sponsored by the Director General of the Swedish Tax Agency, Ms Katrin Westling Palm. Anders has been leading a project focused on knowledge and guidance in “Trust and compliance” within EU (TADEUS), a collaborative initiative with ten other EU-countries chaired by Sweden. The project produced strategic guidelines aimed at supporting top-level management in enhancing trust and compliance. In addition to his extensive experience in international strategic work in different organizations like OECD, EU, IOTA and Nordic Agenda, he also has a strong background in capacity building projects supporting tax administrations in Europe and Africa in improving trust and compliance and change management. His areas of expertise include strategies on compliance, change management, core values, trust, fairness, equality, ethics, treatment, attitudes and taxpayer relations and finally. Notably, he is the co-author, along with Mr. Lennart Wittberg, of the book *“From feared tax collector to popular service agency”*.

#### MS. ZOHRA KHAN



Ms. Zohra Khan is Senior Policy Advisor at UN-Women where she leads global initiatives on gender responsive budgeting and financing. With over 25 years of experience across Africa and Europe, she is recognized for her work in shaping fiscal policies to promote women’s rights. Her career highlights include developing global norms on financing for gender equality and international standard setting on gender budgeting; advancing legal reforms in post-Apartheid South Africa at the Commission on Gender Equality; and analyzing the impact of EU and UK aid and trade policies on women’s livelihoods in developing countries. Ms. Khan leads UN-Women’s efforts in mainstreaming gender in the financing for development follow-up process. She currently co-chairs the Gender Cluster of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, mandated to assess implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## MS. NANA AKUA MENSAH



Ms. Nana Akua Mensah is an international tax policy advisor and lawyer with several years of experience in both the private and public sector. She is a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and consultant working with organizations such as the World Bank Group, the Network of Tax Organizations (NTO), and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) providing technical support in exchange of information, tax transparency, tax and gender and international taxation. She has held various roles over her career including serving as the Competent Authority on Legal Affairs and International Taxation at the Ghana Revenue Authority, and Tax Policy Advisor at the Global Forum on Tax Transparency at the OECD.

## *Part 2: Practical Tools and Data for Gender-Responsive Tax Policies*

### PANELISTS

## MS. CEREN OZER



Ceren Ozer is a Senior Economist with the World Bank where her focus has been on supporting multilateral collaboration on tax matters and taxation and the SDGs. She manages the Global Tax Program and the Platform for Collaboration on Tax. Her technical work focuses on public finance and women's economic empowerment, and health taxes. In her previous position at the World Bank, Ceren worked on operationalizing political economy insights to address constraints to policy reform and project implementation with multi-stakeholder engagement and coalition building approaches in nearly a dozen countries across all Bank regions. She has done work towards a Ph.D. (stopped) in Political Economy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) an M.A. in international relations, conflict management and international economics from SAIS, and a B.A. in economics from the Bogazici University.

## MS. AISHATH HASSAN



Ms. Aishath Hassan was appointed Chief Statistician of the Maldives Bureau of Statistics in August 2021. With a two-decade career at the bureau, she progressed through various roles in economic statistics. Before her promotion, she headed the National Accounts and Economic Statistics Division. She is actively involved in national policymaking as a member of the Macroeconomic Policy Coordination Committee and the High-Level Steering Committee on Implementation of Gender Equality Action Plan. Additionally, she worked as a part-time lecturer at the Maldives National University Business School. Her extensive experience in statistics encompasses GDP calculation, supply and use tables, input-output analysis, tourism economics, price indices, and large-scale surveys. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management from the University of London and a Master of Arts in Econometrics. Her research interests encompass tourism demand modeling, household income and expenditure analysis, and rental market studies.

## CLOSING REMARKS

## MR. NAVID HANIF



Mr. Navid Hanif is the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). 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 and the Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office. 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).

## H. E. MR. LOK BAHADUR THAPA



H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa is the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, he assumed the office of the Permanent Representative (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary) of Nepal to the United Nations since 01 September 2023. He presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations on 1 September 2023. Mr. Thapa has served in a number of positions during a long spell of his diplomatic career spanning more than three decades after he joined the Foreign Service of Nepal in 1990. He was the Ambassador of Nepal to the BENELUX (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg) as well as the Head of Mission to the European Union from 2016 to 2020. During his stint in Brussels, he also served as the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), and Center for the Promotion of Products from Developing Countries (CBI).