

Moderator:

Ms. Christy Davis

Executive Director of the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, Singapore Management University



Biography

Christy Davis is a champion for changemaking and social innovation and has 30 years of experience in Asia across government, business and NGOs. She made the jump from corporate to social impact work with UNDP following the 2004 Asian tsunami as a private sector partnership advisor, building on previous regional positions in the public and private sectors. Now at Singapore Management University, she leads the Lien Centre for Social Innovation. LCSi is on a mission to drive social consciousness and enable partnership-driven innovation. It offers research that translates into action for positive social change, and programmes that both strengthen capacity and harness the collaborative power of the social, private and public sectors.



Mr. Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs



Biography

Mr. Liu started has served the Ministry in various capacities, including as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (2009-2011); Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2006-2009); Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (2003-2006); and Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (1998-2003). He also served in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (1992-1995) and in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (1984-1988). As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu 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. In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu 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.



H.E. Mr. Munir Akram

President of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



Biography

His Excellency Munir Akram was elected seventy-sixth President of the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2020. Ambassador Akram is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Munir Akram previously served as Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York for six years between 2002 and 2008, after serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva for seven years from 1995 to 2002. During his term at the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram served twice as President of the Security Council in May 2003 and in May 2004; President of the Economic and Social Council in 2005; Chairman of the Group of 77 and China (developing countries) in 2007, and Facilitator on UN Administrative Reform in 2006. In recognition of his selfless service and outstanding performance in the field of diplomacy and foreign policy, he was conferred the Award of Hilal-i-Quaid-e-Azam by the President of Pakistan.



Ms. Alicia Bárcena

Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Biography

Ms. Bárcena assumed office as the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on 1 July 2008. She had previously served as the Under-Secretary-General for Management at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Chef de Cabinet and Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the former Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan.

Alicia Bárcena held the post of Deputy Executive Secretary and Director of ECLAC's Environment and Human Settlements Division. Prior to her time at ECLAC, Ms. Bárcena served as Co-ordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), responsible for the Environmental Citizenship Project at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



H.E. Dr. Hala Elsaid

*Minister of Planning and Economic Development,
Government of Egypt*



Biography

Minister of Planning and Economic Development since December 22, 2019, and a prominent Egyptian economist and academic figure.

Dr. Hala ElSaid received her Ph.D. in Economics in 1989 from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. In 2011, she became the first dean elected to the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, and then vice president of Cairo University for Scientific Research and Foreign Relations from September 2013 to 2016.

As a culmination of her prominent role in the area of public service, Dr. Hala ElSaid was appointed Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform on February 16, 2017, and then took over the portfolio of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development on December 22, 2019. She also continues taking over some of the files on the administrative and institutional reform process, as well as overseeing the drafting and implementation of Egypt Vision 2030 and its update.



H.E. Mr. Zasy Angelo

*Vice Minister in charge of New Cities and Housing,
Government of Madagascar*



Biography

Mr ZASY is the Vice-Minister in charge of New Cities and Housing since January 2020. The Vice-Minister is attached to the Ministry of Urban Planning and Public Works. His position was created in 2020 aiming at implementing state initiatives related to the development of sustainable housing and neighbourhoods. Before joining the Malagasy government, Mr ZASY spent his entire career in the private sector. He has worked in France, Morocco, and Francophone Africa for american consulting firms. He has worked on various topics related to the development of private or public urban projects, on financial aspects, investment opportunity or technical and financial feasibility. Before taking up his position in the malagasy government, Mr ZASY was Chargé de Mission to the Presidency of the Republic of Madagascar. Mr. Zasy holds a Master's degree in Urban Management from ESSEC Business School Paris, a Msc degree from Nantes School of Architecture and a Bsc from Paris Val de Seine School of Architecture. He is member of Malagasy Architects Association.



H.E. Mr. Carlos Rognoni

Vice-Minister of Agricultural Development, Government of Panama



Biography

Master of Law in International and Comparative Law at the National Law Center, George Washington University. He graduated in law and political science from Universidad Santa María la Antigua. He has served as a lawyer for the law firm ARCAL Abogados and as an independent international trade advisor in the public and private sectors.

He has well knowledge of the agricultural sector through his family business, GANALACTEA. Member of the board of directors of COOLECHE Cooperative.



Mr. Simon Bakker

Founder and CEO, Kennemer Foods, The Philippines



Biography

Simon Bakker is the founder and CEO of Kennemer Foods International, a Filipino agribusiness focused on the growing of crops on a sustainable basis with fair income sharing for all, with expertise in value chain development, farm management and the creation of collaborative community models. Simon has championed long term inclusive agri-financing in the Philippines and founded Agronomika Finance, as well as pioneering the use of carbon financing to engage smallholder farmers at scale, to improve yields and to increase farmers' incomes in the Philippines. Today, Kennemer is known for the sustainable growing and sourcing of agricultural products such as cacao beans, abaca fiber and banana and is the Philippine's leading supplier of cacao beans to the international market. Kennemer's vision is to create rural transformation through inclusive growth and climate positive solutions. Starting with 200 farmers in its Grower Program in 2012, Kennemer has now engaged more than 19,000 farmers and planted 20 million cacao trees.



Mr. Juan Mari Aburto

Mayor of Bilbao, Spain



Biography

Juan Mari Aburto is the Mayor of Bilbao, a city that has over the last few years undergone one of the most innovative socio-economic, cultural, and urban transformations, and boasts the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao as one of its most recognisable icons. A lawyer by profession, specialising in Economic Law and Public Policy Assessment, he has a long trajectory in the world of politics and in public management at the most important Institutions of the Basque Administration. Among the positions he has undertaken, he has been the Minister for Employment and Social Affairs of the Basque Government, MP for Social Action and Deputy President of the Provincial Council of Bizkaia, as well as posts of responsibility on the Security Council during the tumultuous period of terrorist violence in Euskadi.

Well known for his deep social commitment and vocation for public service, his priority objective has always been to work by and for the people. Amongst the challenges as the new Mayor of Bilbao are the creation of employment and economic activity and positioning the city as attractive and welcoming at an international level.

