

2016 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up – Panel Discussion on the Global Infrastructure Forum

Tuesday, 19 April 2016, 3 – 4 p.m., Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations, New York

Program

Keynote address:

- Mr. Joaquim Levy, Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, World Bank Group

Panellists:

- Mr. Pablo Pereira dos Santos, Manager, Infrastructure and Environment Sector, Inter-American Development Bank
- Mr. Thomas Barrett, Corporate Director, European Investment Bank
- Mr. Craig Steffensen, Representative, North American Representative Office, Asian Development Bank
- Mr. Laurence Carter, Senior Director, Public-Private Partnerships, World Bank Group

Background

The Addis Agenda recognizes that investments in sustainable and resilient infrastructure are a prerequisite to achieving many of the SDGs. It commits enhanced support to developing countries to bridge the infrastructure gap. It seeks to address impediments to greater private investment in infrastructure, and encourages development banks to increase financing for infrastructure. These specific commitments are complemented by the call for a new global infrastructure forum building on existing multilateral collaboration mechanisms, led by the multilateral development banks.

The Addis Agenda mandates the Forum to meet periodically to improve alignment and coordination among established and new infrastructure initiatives, multilateral and national development banks, UN agencies, and national institutions, development partners and the private sector. It also seeks for a greater range of voices to be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in particular in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and African countries, and to work to ensure that investments are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

In response to this call, the multilateral development banks (MDBs), including the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank BRICS, and the World Bank Group, in close partnership with the UN, organized the first Global Infrastructure Forum in the context of the 2016 Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group.

This panel discussion will serve to present outcomes of the first Forum, including the Chairman's Statement. The MDBs used the Forum to improve their alignment and cooperation. The Forum also focused on how governments, working with MDBs and their development partners including those from the private sector, can attract more resources for infrastructure. The MDBs also agreed that the hosting of the Forum will rotate among the MDBs in future, and that preparations will continue to be carried out in an inclusive manner, in cooperation with the UN system through UN-DESA.

Biographies



Mr. Joaquim Levy joined the World Bank in February 2016 as the Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank Group. Before his current role, he worked as the Minister of Finance for the Federal Republic of Brazil since January 2015. From 2010 to 2014, he was the CEO of Bradesco Asset Management S.A. Distribuidora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, division of Banco Bradesco S.A. In 2007, he was appointed as the Secretary of Finance of the state of Rio de Janeiro. He was the Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration at the Inter-American Development Bank from 2006. He was appointed as the Secretary of Brazil's National Treasury since 2003. Before, he was appointed as the Chief Economist at the Brazilian Ministry of Planning, Budget & Management from 2001. He became the Deputy Secretary of Economic Policy at the Brazilian Finance Ministry in 2000. Prior to Levy's position as Visiting Economist at the European Central Bank from 1999 to 2000, he held several positions within the International Monetary Fund from 1992.



Mr. Pablo Pereira dos Santos currently serves as Manager of the Inter-American Development Bank's Infrastructure and Environment Sector. Previously, he acted as Under-Secretary for Regulation and Infrastructure at the Ministry of Finance of Brazil. He was also a Board Member of the Banco do Brasil until October 2015. From October 2013 to February 2015, he served as Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Finance. He joined the Ministry of Finance in 1998 and has been a staff member of the National Treasury since 2001. Over the past seventeen years, he worked in different positions in the Brazilian Government, mostly engaged in infrastructure finance and development, as well as regulatory issues related to it.



Mr. Thomas C. Barrett is the Director and Chief Representative of the European Investment Bank and the Minister of the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, D.C. Before taking up his assignment in Washington, D.C., he was Director of EIB's Advisory Services and New Products Departments. He was concurrently Chairman of the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC), comprising the EIB, the European Commission and EU Member States. He has also been EIB Director for North Western Europe and was responsible for project financing of the aerospace; oil and gas and satellite telecommunication industries. He was also responsible for the establishment of the EIB's Centers of Expertise on Trans-European Networks (TENs). He is currently a member of the Management Board of Marguerite Fund for Energy Climate Change and Infrastructure and of the Supervisory Board of the European Energy Efficiency Fund.



Mr. Craig Steffensen is the Representative to the Asian Development Bank's North American Representative Office (NARO) in Washington, DC. He leads NARO's efforts to raise public awareness of ADB in Canada and the United States, as well as to strengthen collaboration. He was assigned as Country Director to ADB's Thailand Resident Mission from 2010 to 2013, during which he helped engineer ADB's re-engagement with Myanmar in 2012. Prior to this, he was ADB's Team Leader and Country Director for Afghanistan where he served at the forefront of efforts by the international community to assist in Afghanistan's recovery and reconstruction. He also served as ADB's head of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Unit based in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 2005 to 2007, where he led preparations for a comprehensive action plan for regional cooperation in consultation with eight participating Central Asian countries and five other development partners.



Mr. Laurence Carter is the Senior Director of the Public-Private Partnerships Group of the World Bank Group since 2014. Previously, Laurence ran IFC's PPP Transaction Advisory Department from 2008 to 2014, and before that he held positions in IFC's Central and Eastern Europe department and the Small and Medium Enterprises Department. He joined IFC in 1993. Prior to joining IFC, Laurence worked for 10 years in Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland and the south Atlantic island of St Helena.