

Second Committee side event
“Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty”
20 October 2008, 10:20 am – 1:00 pm
United Nations Conference Room 2

Biographies of the panelists

Ms Jane Stewart is Director of the International Labour Organization’s Office to the United Nations, based in New York. Ms Stewart has held a number of ministerial level posts in Canada. In 2004, Ms. Stewart became Director, Skills and Employability Department and as Acting Executive Director of ILO’s Employment Sector at the ILO in Geneva. After a brief assignment in Canada, she rejoined the ILO last month to take on her current position as Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the ILO New York Office.

Dr Augustine Philip Mahiga is Ambassador of Tanzania to the United Nations. Prior to this posting, Ambassador Mahiga has been working as representative, and chief of mission, for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Monrovia, Delhi, and Rome. He was also Deputy Director of the Great Lakes region for UNHCR in Geneva. Earlier in his career, Dr Mahiga was Minister Plenipotentiary in Geneva and in Ottawa, and worked as a senior lecturer in international affairs at the University of Dar-es-Salaam.

Mr Arnold Kuijpers is Managing Director of Rabo Financial Institutions Development BV (‘Rabo Development’), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Rabobank in the Netherlands. The main objective of Rabo Development is to acquire, manage and develop leading rural banks in developing countries. Mr. Kuijpers holds a master degree in economic sciences of Tilburg University. He has been working with the Rabobank Group since 1981.

Mr Gawain Kripke is Director of Policy and Research for Oxfam America, based in Washington, DC. He oversees research, analysis, and advocacy around public policy issues for the organization. Prior to his current role, Kripke served as Senior Policy Advisor on Make Trade Fair, one of Oxfam's advocacy campaigns. Mr Kripke has authored numerous opinion pieces and briefing papers on trade and development issues. He holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard College.