



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Economic Analysis & Policy Division

EXPERT GROUP MEETING

World Economic Situation
and Prospects, 2025

29-30 May 2024


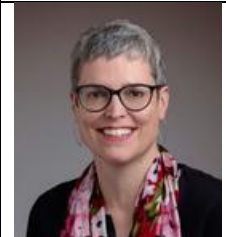
HYBRID


Harnessing the potential of critical minerals for sustainable development

Biographies of Invited Speakers and Experts


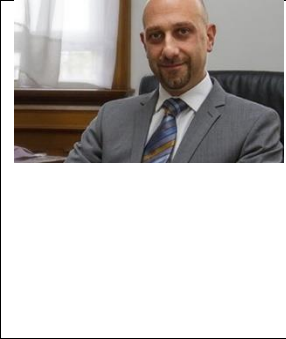
(In alphabetical order of last name)




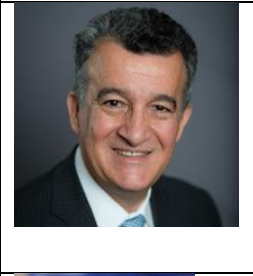


	<p>Antonio Andreoni is a Professor at the Centre for Sustainable Structural Transformation SOAS, University of London. He is a distinguished visiting Professor at the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, and an honorary Professor at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London. He has advised several international organisations and national governments in industrial policymaking, including the EU Commission, UK, Germany, Finland, Portugal, South Africa, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Uganda. He holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University.</p>
	<p>Jean-François Béland is the Vice President, Strategic Sectors, Investment Québec. Previously, he was the Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Affairs at General Fusion Inc., and before that, Executive Vice-President of AREVA Canada Inc. Mr. Béland is a Knight [Chevalier] of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour and a member of the Advisory Board of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, Concordia University. He also sits as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Fondation du Collège de Montréal. Mr. Béland also gained extensive experience in the Canadian civil service, the Office of the PM of Canada and the Treasury Board. He holds an MPA and an M.Sc. in Strategic Management.</p>
	<p>Harry Broadman is a Principal with WestExec Advisors. He is also a Partner and Chair of the Emerging Markets Practice and the CFIUS Practice at Berkeley Research Group LLC. He is also a Faculty Member at Johns Hopkins University and a National Association of Corporate Directors. He is former Chief of Staff, President's Council of Economic Advisors; Former U.S. Assistant Trade Representative; and Former Managing Director, Albright Capital Management. He holds an A.B., in Economics from Brown University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan.</p>

	<p>James Crowell is the Founder of Crow Industries, which provides advanced data collection and autonomy solutions for mining, defense, and space applications. He is an expert in extreme environment robotics, having specialized in the development and deployment of polar, maritime, volcanic, and space systems at NASA. He also serves as advisor of Robotics and Exploration at Aerial Precision. He holds a B.S. in Earth and Space Exploration, and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Arizona State University.</p>
	<p>Aimee Curtright is a senior scientist at RAND Corporation, and a Professor of policy analysis at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Her areas of expertise include solar PV, unconventional shale gas, and building efficiency, and her work has evaluated the impacts of these technologies on sustainability, resilience, and equity in a range of contexts and for a range of sponsors. She holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.S. in Chemistry from University of Miami.</p>
	<p>Harun Dogo is the Managing Director at TCW, where he leads the Firm's cross-asset quantitative research and investing efforts. He has also co-headed TCW's Sustainable Investment Group. Prior to joining TCW, he was an Executive Director at Morgan Stanley. Earlier, he was an economist at the World Bank working in the central economic policy department, and in the environment and natural resources group. He holds Master's Degrees in Applied Physics and Defense Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Ph.D. in Policy Analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School.</p>
	<p>Govind Friedland is the CEO of Lifezone Metals, a modern metals company with the aim of creating value across the battery metals supply chain of extraction, processing, and recycling using its Hydromet Technology. He has served as the Executive Chairman of GoviEx Uranium Inc., and on the boards of directors at Cordoba Minerals Corp, and Sama Resources Inc. His interests are in energy metals and in particular a focus on disruptive technologies for mineral exploration and mineral processing, focusing primarily on nickel, copper, and uranium. Govind holds a Bachelor's Degree in Geology and Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.</p>
	<p>Clovis Freire is the Chief, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development in UNCTAD, and an affiliated researcher, UNU-MERIT. His research interests cover economics of technology change, structural economics, and strategies for building the productive capacities of developing countries. He is a computer engineer with a Master's Degree in Computer Science, an MBA in Management of Information Systems and a Ph.D. in Economics from Maastricht University.</p>
	<p>Navid Hanif is the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN DESA. He is also the UN sous Sherpa to the G20 finance and main tracks. Mr. Hanif joined UN DESA in 2001 and has served in various capacities since then. He was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development, Chief of Policy Coordination Branch, and Director in the Office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Support, and the Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office. He holds MIA, International Political Economy, Columbia University, and a M.A., English Literature, Government College University (Lahore).</p>

	<p>Alexandra Hegarty is an analyst at the International Energy Agency, where she specialises in critical mineral demand and supply modelling and analysis in the World Energy Outlook team, with a primary focus on nickel and environmental, social and governance issues. Prior to joining the IEA, she worked as an Economist at Natural Resources Canada in critical minerals and clean energy. She holds an MA in Economics from the University of Toronto and a BA in Economics and International Development.</p>
	<p>Zhenqian Huang is an Economic Affairs Officer with UN DESA, currently in the core team to produce the United Nations' flagship publication World Economic Situation and Prospects. Prior to that, she worked at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and provided macroeconomic assessment on Asia-Pacific economies. Zhenqian holds a Bachelor's in Economics and Philosophy from Fudan University in China, and Master's Degrees in Public Administration (in International Development) from Harvard's Kennedy School and in Social Policy from the London School of Economics.</p>
	<p>Rishabh Jain leads the Technology Futures programme at The Council on Energy, Environment and Water. His expertise revolves around critical minerals and renewable energy deployment, supply chain, and manufacturing. He has also been supporting various Indian Ministries for the G20 Energy Transition Working Group. He holds a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.</p>
	<p>Cornelia Kaldewei is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Development Research Branch, UN DESA. Previously, she worked in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of DESA, where she was in the lead on different chapters of the annual Financing for Sustainable Development Report, most recently on the international financial architecture, and on science, technology, innovation and capacity building. She started her UN career at EAPD's Global Economic Monitoring Branch. She later worked at ECLAC in Santiago de Chile. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Eberhard-Karls University in Tübingen, Germany.</p>
	<p>Angela Kariuki is a Programme Management Officer, Intergovernmental Affairs, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Previously, she worked with UNEP's Law Division, in the Frontiers in Environmental Law Unit where she focused on implementing UNEP's initiatives concerning human rights and the environment. Before joining UNEP, she worked as a research associate with the South African Human Rights Commission, focusing on environmental issues, natural resource management, and rural development. She holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy and Development from the University of Pretoria.</p>
	<p>Marit Kitaw, is the Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Center, a specialized agency of the African Union, dedicated to implementing the Africa Mining Vision. She has extensive experience as Chief Technical Advisor on Extractives Industries for Sustainable Development at UNDP Mozambique, an economist leading the minerals portfolio in UNECA, COMESA, AfDB, and the US Institute of World Affairs. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Nice/ Sophia-Antipolis in France, and an MBA in Leadership and Sustainability from the University of Cumbria, UK.</p>

	<p>Tom LaTourrette is a senior physical scientist at RAND with over 20 years of experience in infrastructure, energy, and public safety policy. His research covers seabed mining and critical minerals supply chains; risks and mitigation to infrastructure related to hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, sea level rise, and terrorism; renewable, nuclear, and fossil energy resources and technologies; safety evaluation, technology, and regulation; and terrorism risk modeling and technology deployment. He holds a Ph.D. in Geology from the California Institute of Technology.</p>
	<p>Carlos de Miguel is the Director (OiC), Division of Natural Resources, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He leads research on climate change, sustainable production and consumption patterns, environmental implications of public policies and application of economic instruments to environmental management, among others. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Economics from the University of Chile, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Valladolid.</p>
	<p>Peter Mockel is a Senior Industry Specialist for embedded systems with IFC's Climate Business Department. This includes grid scale energy storage (battery) systems, as well as smart utility meters, building management systems, and lighting systems. He was previously CTO with Berlin-based smart electricity metering start-up yetu AG, developing an electricity management system based on a home area network around the smart meter. He has a B.A. (Hons) and M.A. in Computer Science from Cambridge University, Diplominformatik (M.Sc. in software engineering) from TU Aachen.</p>
	<p>Tom Moerenhout is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He is also a Senior Advisor at the World Bank, and a Senior Associate at the International Institute for Sustainable Development. He also teaches at NYU Stern School of Business and is a Scholar in Practice at Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought. His research expertise and practical engagements focus on geopolitics, political economy, and international economic law. He holds two Master's Degrees and a Ph.D. at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.</p>
	<p>Shantanu Mukherjee is an economist with interests in poverty, inequality and sustainable development. His professional experience spans the United Nations system, government and academia.</p> <p>His current work at DESA encompasses the economic analysis of emerging and long-run trends relevant for sustainable development; shorter term macroeconomic forecasts; assessing the development progress of the least developed countries; and related capacity building. Previously, he headed the policy analysis function for the SDGs, where an area of focus was in enhancing the impact of science, technology and innovation on sustainable development. Prior to this, he led the research and writing team of UNDP's Human Development Report, preceded by a stint as head of UNDP's global MDG policy work. He began his non-academic career in in the Indian government in areas of development policy and public finance. He has also worked with national planning, finance, and sector ministries in countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.</p> <p>He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University, as well as advanced degrees in Public Policy and in Physics – having also taught all of these subjects (fortunately, not all at the same time).</p>

	<p>Hercule Kalele Mulonda is an Associate Professor, University of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His field of expertise is synthesis of new energetic materials. Previously, he worked as an Associate Professor at the School of Sciences at the University of Kinshasa. He was a Fellow with the Mandela Washington Fellowship 2017 cohort. He holds a Ph.D. in Material Physics and Chemistry from Wuhan University of Technology, with a specialization in new materials energy conversion and storage.</p>
	<p>Javier Papa is the former Under Secretary of Energy Planning, Energy Secretariat, Argentina. He is Director of the Research Centre on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Energy Transition and associate Professor in the Energy Engineering Graduate Program, both at the National University of San Martin. He has worked as senior economist for the Southeast of England Development Agency, at the British Government, as well as Assistant Director for Economic Research in both the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, at the Irish Government. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics of Innovation from the Max Planck Institute of Economics – FSU Jena.</p>
	<p>Ingo Pitterle is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UN DESA. He is one of the lead authors of the United Nations’ annual flagship publication World Economic Situation and Prospects. His areas of expertise include economic growth; monetary and fiscal policy; and financial crises. He has also served as instructor of Political Economy Analysis courses for United Nations staff in field missions. Before joining DESA, he worked at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut, Lebanon. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Eberhard-Karls University in Tübingen, Germany.</p>
	<p>Hamid Rashid is the Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch in the Economic Analysis and Policy Division in UN DESA. He leads the writing team for the World Economic Situation and Prospects. His research interest includes macroeconomic policies, international finance, financial market liberalization and their impact on economic growth and development. He holds a Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Columbia University in New York, a MPhil in Economics and MPA from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas.</p>
	<p>Sunayana Sasmal is a research fellow at the UK Trade Policy Observatory. She has worked with the Legal Affairs Division of the World Trade Organisation, the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, and the World Bank. She has previously worked with the Indian Government’s trade advisory think-tank, the Centre for WTO Studies. Her areas of interest include the interlinkages of trade and investment with climate and sustainability. She holds a Masters of Law from the Columbia Law School, New York, and a B.A Law from National Law University, Jodhpur, India.</p>
	<p>Oliver Schwank is the Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Development Office in UN DESA. He leads the team which produces the Financing for Sustainable Development Report. Currently, he is leading the preparations for the fourth Conference on Financing for Development. Before joining DESA, he worked with the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa and with UNIDO. He holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics and International Development from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.</p>

	<p>Richard Silbergliitt is a senior physical scientist at RAND and Professor of policy analysis at Pardee RAND Graduate School. He has worked in academia, government, and private industry for over 50 years, performing, evaluating, and managing research in advanced technology areas. Prior to joining RAND, he worked in the private sector, as well as at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Brookhaven National Laboratory; the U.S. National Science Foundation; and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He holds a B.S. in Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology, an M.S. and Ph.D. in Solid State Physics from the University of Pennsylvania.</p>
	<p>John Sloan is an Economic Affairs Officer with the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. He leads the portfolio at UNECA covering extractive sectors, green minerals, and Member States' voluntary reviews of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. He holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.</p>
	<p>Benedikt Sobotka is the Chief Executive of Eurasian Resources Group, a leading mining and metals company. He also co-chairs the Next Generation of Leaders for the Mining and Metals Industry Transformation Group and is a Member of the Governors Steering Committee for the Mining and Metals community. He graduated from the WHU School of Management, the Rotterdam School of Management, CEIBS Shanghai and Moscow Finance Academy</p>
	<p>Rogério Studart is Senior Fellow at the Brazilian Center of International Relations. He is also a consultant for the United Nations, multilateral institutions, and governments, and a member of the Board of Directors of Centro Brasil no Clima and a Distinguished Fellow of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils. He works and advocates on initiatives to advance policy-driven, evidence-based analysis of the costs, benefits, and opportunities of environmentally sound, low-carbon growth and development. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from University College London, England.</p>
	<p>Angela Tritto is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Brunei Darussalam. She was formerly with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Her most recent works examine China's Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia. Her publications analyze the role of public, private, and third sector organizations in affecting development outcomes and sustainability. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the City University of Hong Kong.</p>
	<p>Zainab Usman is a senior fellow and Director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Her fields of expertise include institutions, economic policy, energy policy, and emerging economies in Africa. Previously she worked with the World Bank Group on issues of social sustainability, policy reforms, natural resources management, and disruptive technologies. She has also worked at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, and the Department of International Development. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Oxford.</p>

	<p>Sebastian Vergara is an Economic Affairs Officer at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. He is specialized in economic growth, innovation, international trade, and multinational firms. He is member of the core team producing the UN DESA flagship report “World Economic Situation and Prospects”. He holds a Master of Arts in International Economics from University of Sussex, UK, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Friedrich-Schiller University and Max Planck Institute of Economics.</p>
	<p>Fabian E. Villalobos is a full engineer at RAND, and a Professor of policy analysis at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. His work at RAND has included topics on emerging technologies, logistics, acquisitions, the defense industrial base, and China. He has a specific interest in vehicle electrification policy, critical minerals supply chains, and their impacts on climate change, trade, and international relations. He holds a Ph.D. in Material Science and a B.S in Chemical Engineering from UC Riverside.</p>
	<p>Yongzhong Wang is the Director, Department of International Commodity, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is a Professor at the School of International Politics and Economics, University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is a non-Resident Senior Research Fellow for the Global China Initiative at the Boston University Global Development Policy Center. His research interests cover global commodity market, international investment, energy economics, and monetary economics.</p>
	<p>Dhruv Warrior is a Programme Associate in the Technology Futures team at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and his work focuses primarily on energy storage and electric mobility. At the Council, he tracks key market and technology developments in energy storage and develops business models and policy recommendations to enable clean energy transition. He also closely monitors key supply chains, recycling technologies and trends in the electric mobility and power sector. He holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Karnataka.</p>
	<p>Elisa Yoshiara is a Ph.D. candidate and assistant policy researcher at RAND Corporation. Previously she was an analyst in the US Government Accountability Office. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a B.A in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of California Berkeley.</p>