

Speaker Bios Session 3 – Dialogue II

“Getting better results for sustainable development: the role of National Development Cooperation Policies”

ECOSOC Chamber, 21 May 2018, 4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Harris brings over 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. Since 2015, Mr. Harris has served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He joined UNEP’s Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002, he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department, and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department. Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science in German and Political Science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany.

H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Nasser, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honduras Ambassador María del Carmen Nasser Selman



Ambassador María del Carmen Nasser was appointed as the Vice Minister of International Cooperation and Promotion of Honduras since 2014. She holds a degree in Business Administration and an MBA in International Commerce. Before assuming her current position, she served as Ambassador of the Republic of Honduras to the Republic of Chile and as the National Coordinating Representative of Honduras for CELAC. Throughout her career she has held various positions in business and education, serving as Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Founding Partner, Professor, and as an experienced Consultant, on pressing issues such as Education, Social Development and economic issues.

H.E. Mr. Inocencio García, Vice-Minister for Development Cooperation from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic



Vice Minister of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic. Previously, he held the positions of Director of Bilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, as well as Ambassador in charge of the Division of Relations with Haiti, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. Mr. García holds a Master’s Degree in High Public Administration from the “Instituto Universitario de Investigación José Ortega y Gasset” and from the “Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo”. Also, holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from the “Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD)”. He also did some special courses in modules of Globalization, State, and Regional Integration, with emphasis on the European Union and Central America at the Instituto de Altos Estudios de Ciencias Políticas Universidad de París and the Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo. Mr. García is a Guest Professor of the Master Program of High Studies for the Defense and National Security, at the “Instituto de Educación Superior en Diplomacia Consular” of the Ministry of Defense and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. Additionally, he is in charge of the issues of Cooperation from the Ibero-American General Secretariat and The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Mr. García is the author of various articles.



Mr. Charles Assamba Ongodo, Director General for Cooperation and Regional Integration, Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Cameroon



Mr. Charles Assamba Ongodo is the Director General of Cooperation and Regional Integration in the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development of the Republic of Cameroon. He has held this position since 2013. Prior to this position, he was Head of the Division (Director) of Cooperation with Emerging Countries in the same Ministry. Since 2017, he has been coordinating the “Cameroon Recovery for Peace Project”- a project funded jointly by the World Bank Group, the United Nations System and the European Union. He is also an Alternate Governor of Cameroon to the World Bank since 2016 and to the African Development Bank since 2013. He is also acting as Member of the Autonomous Sinking Fund (CAA)’s Board of Directors since April 2013, and as Vice-Chairman of the Task-Force on the Follow-up of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. As a Diplomat (Minister Plenipotentiary Super Scale) graduated from the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC) and holder of a Doctorate in International Relations, Mr. Charles Assamba Ongodo has served as the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Cameroon in France where he was in charge of the Permanent Cooperation between Cameroon and UNESCO from 1997 to 2006. During this period, he was Alternate Member of Cameroon to the Executive Council of UNESCO. From May 2007 to October 2010, he was a Member of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiation Committee (CNSCN-APE) and Legal Negotiator in the EPAs between the Central African Countries and the European Union. From April 2006 to October 2010, he was Deputy Director in charge of E.U. Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon.

Ms. Angela Bester, Independent Consultant, Communication Works and Author, 2018 DCF Study on Mutual Accountability *(speaking from the floor)*

Ms. Angela Bester is an independent consultant from South Africa and study author for the 2018 DCF Survey on progress in mutual accountability and transparency conducted by UNDESA. She has supported the work of the DCF analysing mutual accountability Surveys since 2013. Angela conducted the Scoping Study on Monitoring, Review and Accountability for Development Cooperation post-2015 for UNDESA, and has prepared analytical papers on capacity building and results-based management for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the United Nations. She is a former Director-General of Social Development, South Africa.

