

Speaker Biographies Session 4

“Leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development: on the road to BAPA+40”

ECOSOC Chamber, 22 May 2018, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)



Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the chief executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs, which she has led since 2005. With more than 26 years of experience in the field of politics and international relations, Elizabeth’s expertise lies in South Africa’s foreign policy, South-South Cooperation and the role of emerging powers in Africa. She has published on various aspects of South Africa’s foreign policy including on its peace-making model as a key dimension of its soft power, its development diplomacy and edited a volume on SA’s foreign policy in the first decade of democracy – Apartheid Past, Renaissance Future (SAIIA, 2004). She has also co-edited two books exploring the rise of the new development cooperation providers: Development cooperation and emerging powers: New Partners or Old Patterns (Zed Books, 2012) and Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers (Jacana, 2015). Ms Sidiropoulos serves on the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Future Council on the Future of Regional Governance. Between 2012 and 2014 she served on the Scientific Advisory Board of Andris Piebalgs, the EU Development Commissioner. She is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Indian Foreign Affairs Journal, the journal of the Graduate Institute of International Development in Geneva and the Chinese Quarterly of Strategic Studies of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS). She is the editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of International Affairs.

H.E. Mr. Daniel Raimondi, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina *(special presentation)*



Daniel Raimondi was appointed as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic in July 2017. Prior to this, Mr. Raimondi worked in various positions on MERCOSUR, lastly as Undersecretary for Economic Integration with the Americas and MERCOSUR. Mr. Raimondi also gained extensive experience as Political Director for MERCOSUR and Director for Regional Affairs. He started serving as Officer of the Argentine Foreign Service Institute in 1984. Mr. Raimondi holds a Bachelor of Political Economy from the University of Geneva. He trained in trade and development studies at Sorbonne University Paris, UNCTAD Turin and GATT Trade Policies Geneva.

H.E. Mr. Li Chenggang, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Commerce, China *(special presentation)*



Li Chenggang is currently the Assistant Minister of Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). His portfolio covers the Department of Treaty and Law, the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Industry, Security, Import and Export Control, China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters, China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce, China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products, the Accounting Society for Foreign Economic Relations & Trade of China and he oversees liaison with the Trade Audit Office of the National Audit Office of China. He also co-oversees the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs.

H.E. Mr. Agustín García-Lopes, Executive Director, Mexican Agency of International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico



H.E. Mr. Joao Almino, Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC), Brazil



João Almino, a career diplomat, is a Brazilian Ambassador. He served at the embassies of Brazil in Paris and in Mexico. He was appointed Chargé d'affaires in Beirut, Deputy Chief of Mission in London and Consul-General in San Francisco, London, Miami, Chicago, Washington and Madrid. He was Director of Rio Branco Institute (2001-2004), the Brazilian Diplomatic Academy. He holds a doctorate degree from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales of Paris (School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences).

Mr. Uwe Gehlen, Head of Division on Effectiveness and transparency; quality standards, International Development Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany



Uwe Gehlen is Head of the Division for Effectiveness and Transparency, Quality Standards in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). He holds this position since 2015 with a 1-year intermission 2017 serving as Head of German Development Cooperation in Afghanistan. Prior to this he worked in different positions on Management level in operations as well as in political steering and oversight in the BMZ, GIZ, World Bank and the German Parliament Administration. Mr. Gehlen has a MA in Political Science, Sociology and Law from the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University in Bonn, Germany.

Ms. Amy Padilla, Executive Director, IBON International



Amy Padilla is the Executive Director of IBON International Foundation, a Southern international organization that engages in capacity development for people's rights and democracy around the world. Ms. Padilla has been the Deputy Director of the organization from 2014-2017, providing support in the overall management of various programs, staff units, regional offices and hosted networks. In 2017, she was also appointed as Executive Secretary of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Global Secretariat. Prior to serving as Deputy Director, she served as Programme Manager of IBON International's Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Programme. Ms. Padilla has also worked with parliamentarians in the Philippines as Chief-of-Staff to the progressive party-list representatives of Bayan Muna (People First) Party from 2001 to 2011. She has been a development worker for over two decades, serving with a Church-based grassroots organization, a media organization and as researcher-writer since the mid-1990s. She has a degree in Journalism from the University of the Philippines.

