

Speaker Biographies Session 5

“Bridging capacity gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer in strategic areas”

ECOSOC Chamber, 22 May 2018, 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Mr. Mark Lewis, Assistant Director, Institute for Capacity Development, IMF



Mark Lewis is an Assistant Director in the IMF's Institute for Capacity Development (ICD). Mr. Lewis has worked with the IMF for more than 20 years, with experience on a wide range of capacity development, policy, and country issues. Just prior to taking up his current position in ICD, he served as Assistant Director in the European Department and Mission Chief for Cyprus. Prior to that, Mr. Lewis was the IMF's Senior Resident Representative for Turkey. Previous country responsibilities included Russia, Ukraine, Morocco, and Cote d'Ivoire. Prior to joining the IMF, Mr. Lewis spent several years at the World Bank, and before that, worked on relief and rehabilitation efforts in the Sudan. A US national, Mr. Lewis was born in Zurich, Switzerland and grew up in Connecticut in the United States. He has a B.A. degree from Swarthmore College and an M.P.P. from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, ESCAP



United Nations Under-Secretary-General Shamshad Akhtar is the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Formerly, she was the United Nations Secretary-General's Senior Advisor on Economics and Finance, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development as well as the United Nations Sherpa for the G20, supporting the Finance Ministers and Central Bankers track. Prior to her UN career, she served as the Governor of the Central Bank of Pakistan, Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank and held a range of senior posts in the Asian Development Bank.

Mr. Richard Watts, Senior Analyst, Development Initiatives



Mr. Richard Watts joined Development Initiatives in August 2014. Mr. Watts leads the Development Initiatives analysis on government finance data at the national and sub-national level, alongside inputting into work and learning in our other research areas. Previously, Mr. Watts worked at Development Finance International, Global Partners & Associates and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. He has consulted on numerous projects for various international non-governmental organizations (ActionAid, Oxfam, Save the Children and WaterAid) and UN agencies (UN Women, UNESCO, UNECOSOC).

Mr. Zachary Chege, Director General, National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya and Chair, UN Statistical Commission



Mr. Zachary Mwangi Chege has over 27 years of experience in the public service. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from University of Nairobi and a Masters of Arts in Economic Policy Management, Makerere University, Uganda. He has expertise in official statistics, strategic management, surveys and censuses implementation, public policy analysis, budgeting, and project management, among others. Prior to his current appointment as the Director General of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), he was the Director of Macroeconomic Statistics, KNBS, from 2008 to 2012. From 1991 to 2008 he worked in the mainstream civil service rising to the position of Chief Economist in the Ministry of Planning and National Development. He has coordinated the preparation of various publications including, Annual Economic Survey reports, Annual Statistical Abstract reports, Quarterly GDP reports, Socio Economic Atlas, various survey reports, Public Expenditure Review reports, Quarterly Budget Review reports and District Development Plans. He has attended various courses and workshops, both locally and abroad, on Regional Integration, Statistical Developments, and Public Expenditure Management, among others.

Mr. Steve Hollingworth, President and CEO, Grameen Foundation



Steve Hollingworth is CEO of Grameen Foundation. His unflagging commitment through 30 years of work in international development has been to ensure that the delivery of financial services benefits the world's poorest people and fulfills its promise of alleviating poverty. He was previously president of Freedom from Hunger, where he focused that organization on the intersection of financial services and ending hunger through the empowerment of women in rural communities. Mr. Hollingworth also served as the chief operating officer for CARE and also held senior field positions at CARE offices in Bangladesh, Bolivia, India, Lesotho and Sri Lanka. Mr. Hollingworth holds an M.S. in Economics, Development Studies, from Victoria University of Manchester and a B.A. in Economics from Augustana College, Illinois.

