

**Economic and Social Council
Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
ECOSOC Chamber, 15 March 2012**

BIOGRAPHIES of SPEAKERS



Ms. Allen Catherine Kagina is the Commissioner General of the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). Her career in tax administration spans a period of 20 years. Prior to becoming Commissioner General, Allen was the Commissioner of Customs in Uganda Revenue Authority from 2001 to 2004. Allen has addressed several International fora on matters of Domestic Resource Mobilization for developing countries. For the last 7 years Allen has led major reforms in URA, transforming it into an efficient service oriented public institution that has won several awards for its innovations and use of information technology to reduce the cost of doing business and increase compliance. These reforms have also led to higher revenue realization, thereby allowing Government of Uganda to increasingly fund it's National Development Plan.

Allen has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Makerere, Uganda and a Master's degree in Public Administration and Management from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.



Mr. Michael Keen is Deputy Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund, where he was previously head of the Tax Policy and Tax Coordination divisions. Before joining the Fund, he was Professor of Economics at the University of Essex. He was awarded the CESifo-IIPF Musgrave prize in 2010, delivered the 2012 Chelliah lecture at NIPFP in Delhi, is Honorary President of the International Institute of Public Finance (of which he was elected President from 2003 to 2006), has served on the Board of the National Tax Association in the U.S., and has served on the editorial boards of American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, International Tax and Public Finance (of which he was joint founder), Journal of Public Economics, the Review of Economic Studies and many other journals. He has led technical assistance missions to nearly thirty countries on a wide range of issues in tax policy, and consulted for the World Bank, European Commission, and the private sector. Recent publications appear in the American Economic Review, Economic Policy, the Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics and the National Tax Journal. He is co-author of books on The Modern VAT, the Taxation of Petroleum and Minerals, and Changing Customs.



Mr. Richard Stern leads the Global Tax Simplification Program for the World Bank Group, as well as co-leads the World Bank Group's Tax Transparency Initiative. Global Tax Simplification Program works on reforming tax policy and administration to lower compliance costs for businesses, especially SMEs, as well as fostering tax transparency for the entire tax system. Before leading this group, Mr. Stern was the Regional Program Coordinator for Africa at the Facility for Investment Climate Advisory Services (FIAS). He has worked extensively in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in Eastern Europe and Asia, leading studies of barriers to investment, as well as designing action plans for governments, especially in the area of tax policy and administration. Before joining FIAS in 2003, Mr. Stern was an economist at the International Monetary Fund for 8 years, working mainly on post-Soviet countries, the Balkans, Central African countries, and post-conflict countries. At the IMF he worked on monetary and fiscal issues, as well as debt reduction under the HIPC initiative. Mr. Stern holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley (1992), a MS in International Relations from Georgetown School of Foreign Service (1986), and a BA from Williams College (1983).



Mr. Pascal Saint-Amans took on his duties as Director of the Center for Tax Policy and Administration at the OECD on 1 February 2012. Mr. Saint-Amans, a French national, joined the OECD in September 2007 as the Head of the International Co-operation and Tax Competition Division in the CTPA. He played a key role in the advancement of the OECD tax transparency agenda in the context of the G20. In October 2009, he was appointed the Head of the Global Forum Division, created to service the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, a programme in which over 100 countries participate.

Mr. Saint-Amans graduated from the National School of Administration (ENA) in 1996, and was an official in the French Ministry for Finance for nearly a decade. He held various positions within the Treasury, including heading the supervision of the EU work on direct taxes and overseeing legislation and policy on wealth tax and mergers and spin offs. He was also the head of tax treaty negotiations and mutual agreement procedures. In this capacity, he participated in the OECD Working Party No. 1 of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs as the delegate for France before being elected Chair of WP1 in 2005. He was also a member of the UN Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters, including serving as a “rapporteur” in 2006. Before leaving government service, he was Deputy Director in charge of litigation at the Direction Générale des Impôts. Mr. Saint-Amans also served as Financial Director of the Energy Regulation Committee between 1999 and 2002 and was responsible for the introduction of new electricity tariffs. Having earned a degree in history, Mr. Saint-Amans also received a degree from the Institut d’études politiques of Paris.



Mr. Logan Wort is the Acting Executive Secretary of African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), a multilateral organisation of Heads of Revenue of African Countries. In his current function, he is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of ATAF, including capacity development and leadership, establishing an African Tax Centre and building inter-continental and international tax programs and systems for sustainable revenue collection in Africa. Logan is a Group Executive at the South African Revenue Service. Prior to being appointed as Head of ATAF, he was responsible for the organisation’s strategic engagements with business, government and international affairs. He also managed the

Communication and Marketing division as Group Executive for SARS.

His previous positions include Chief Operating Officer at the South African Treasury and the Ministry of Finance responsible for strategic positioning, management coordination and risk management within the department. He was spokesperson for the South African Minister of Finance for eight years. Before that, he headed the Finance and Investment Sector of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), where he was responsible for macroeconomic convergence, development finance and trade, investment promotion and tax policy coordination.

Logan Wort was born in Cape Town. His leadership experience was shaped by his involvement in the struggle against Apartheid where he served in leadership positions in a range of mass democratic movement organisations for many years. During this time Logan Wort was arrested and detained without trial spanning a combined period of two years. Logan Wort studied political science and sociology and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration.



Mr. Márcio Verdi is the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT). Mr. Verdi is an economist and was a tax auditor in the “Secretaria da Receita Federal de Brasil”. After 28 years of working in the Brazilian Government Administration, in July 2004 he was appointed Director of Tax Studies in CIAT and held this position until 2007. At that time, the Executive Council invited him to take over the CIAT Operations' Directorate, the area in charge of the international cooperation and assistance in the agency.

In 2009, he participated in an international public call and was appointed CIAT Executive Secretary, for the 2010 - 2014 term, assuming office on 1 January, 2010. From the beginning of his term as CIAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Verdi has worked to promote cooperation among the organization's member countries, with priority focus on matters of international taxation, promotion of transparency, ethics and cooperation in the field of information technology applied to tax administrations.

He has specialized in International Economics and Advanced Quantitative Methods in the University of Brasilia (UnB). He holds a Postgraduate degree in Theory and Implementation of a Modern Economy, from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

He has lectured and presented in different international meetings in over 40 countries and has been honored with the NéeWinckler Tax Auditor's Merit from the Federal Revenue Secretariat of Brazil in November, 2002.



Mr. Armando Lara Yaffar is currently the Director-General for International Treaties, in the Tax Legislation Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico. His previous positions in the Ministry include: the Deputy Director-General for International Treaties, the Director for Treaty Negotiation and Special Projects and the Director of the Division of Legal International Procedure. Mr. Yaffar is currently the Chair of OECD's Working Party 10 on Exchange of Information and Tax Compliance, the Vice-Chair in the Bureau of the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from the

Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico and a degree in Finance from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico.



Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Director of the Financing for Development Office at UN-DESA (since 2010), is responsible for secretariat support to the intergovernmental follow-up process to the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and 2008 Doha Declaration, aimed at promoting policy coherence, coordination and cooperation at all levels in substantive areas of domestic resource mobilization, private capital flows, international trade, official development assistance, external debt and global financial architecture. His previous assignments at UN Headquarters were in the areas of Financing for Development (2000-2008) and Macroeconomics and Development Policy (1989-1999). Prior to joining the UN Secretariat, he was a career diplomat in

the Foreign Service of the former Soviet Union. Mr. Trepelkov holds MA and Ph.D. degrees in International Economics from MGIMO-University and authored several publications.