ECOSOC special meeting on international cooperation
in tax matters (New York, 18 May 2018)

Biographies of panellists

H.E. Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmaddaminov is Vice-President of the Economic
and Social Council. He has served as Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to
the United Nations since 2014. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Mahmaddaminov
served as Minister for Labour and Social Protection of his country since 2010.
He headed the State Savings Bank “AMONATBONK” in the capital, from 2005
until 2010, prior to which he was First Deputy of the JSC “ORIONBANK” since
2003. Between 1993 and 2001, Mr. Mahmaddaminov served as General Manager
of the Tajikistan and Pakistan (IR) Mountain Society Project of the Aga Khan
Foundation Development Support Programme. He was educated at Tajikistan
State University, Dushanbe (1983-1988) and at the Johns Hopkins University

Mr. Elliott Harris is the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for
Economic Development and Chief Economist. Prior to his appointment in 2018,
Mr. Harris served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York
Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2015. 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 (IMF) 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. Babatunde Fowler is Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue
Services, Nigeria and Chairman, African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF).
His previous positions include General Manager, Group Head, South
Commercial Banking Group, Credit Lyonnais Nigeria LTD and Product
Manager, Johnson & Johnson. Mr. Fowler has a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics, University of Wisconsin, USA, and a Master’s Degree in Business
Administration, California State University, USA. He also serves on the United

Mr. Eric Nii Yarboi Mensah is Assistant Commissioner in charge of Legal
Affairs and International Taxation Agreements at the Ghana Revenue Authority.
He previously was Legal Officer, Ghana Revenue Authority. Mr. Mensah has a
Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology and Political Science, University of Ghana, a
Qualifying Certificate in Law, Ghana School of Law and a Certificate in
Business Tax and Modernising Tax Administration, University of Pretoria,
South Africa. Mr. Mensah also serves as the Co-Chairperson of the United
**Ms. Carmel Peters** is Policy Manager, Inland Revenue, New Zealand. Her previous positions include Senior Policy Analyst and Senior Policy Advisor at Inland Revenue, New Zealand. She also was Senior Associate at Rudd Watts & Stone law firm. Ms. Peters holds a Master’s Degree in Law (Taxation), New York University, USA and a Bachelor’s Degree in Law, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Ms. Peters also serves as the Co-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

**Ms. Eliza Anyangwe** is a Cameroon-born, London-based writer, editor and moderator. She joined the Guardian in 2008 as an editorial assistant on the award-winning Katine Project and in 2012, became editor of the Guardian’s Global Development Professionals Network. After going freelance in 2014, Eliza spent a year covering the transition from MDGs to SDGs for the Guardian as well as writing and commissioning for Guardian Opinion, and working as a producer on CNN Africa. Today, Eliza continues to write and chair events for the Guardian and a range of other organisations including World Water Week, ECOSOC, the Belgian government, Dell and the ITC. She is the founder of The Nzinga Effect, a digital publication and communications agency focused on African women’s stories; guest lecturer on the international relations and communications programme at IULM in Milan, and a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts.

**Mr. Aart Roelofsen** is Deputy Head, International Tax Unit, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands. His previous positions include Policy Advisor to the Netherlands State Secretary of Finance, Specialist in Corporate Tax and Income Tax, Directorate of Tax, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands and Tax Inspector, Tax Administration, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Mr. Roelofsen has a Degree in Rural Development Sociology, Agricultural University in Wageningen and a Degree in Tax Law, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. Mr. Roelofsen also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

**Mr. Brian Jenn** is the Deputy International Tax Counsel at the United States Department of the Treasury. He joined Treasury’s Office of Tax Policy in January 2012 and has worked on a wide range of international tax legal and policy issues, including subpart F, foreign currency issues, transfer pricing, digital economy and cloud issues, and cross-border reorganizations. He has been a U.S. Treasury delegate to OECD’s Working Party 6 on Transfer Pricing and is Co-Chair of the OECD’s Task Force on the Digital Economy. Mr. Jenn earned his B.A. and M.A. (Economics) at Northwestern University and his J.D. at Yale Law School.

**Ms. Grace Perez-Navarro** is the Deputy Director of the OECD’s Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. As such, she plays a key role in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project, improving international tax cooperation, tackling illicit financial flows, promoting better tax policies and engaging developing countries in OECD tax work. Since joining the OECD in 1997, she has held several key positions, including having led the OECD’s work on bank secrecy, tax and e-commerce, harmful tax practices, money laundering and tax crimes, the tax aspects of countering bribery of foreign officials, and strengthening all forms of administrative cooperation between tax authorities.
Mr. Rajat Bansal is the Joint Secretary (Foreign Tax and Tax Research), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Government of India and Competent Authority for treaty negotiations, MAP/APA and exchange of information with countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America as well as Australia. His previous positions include Commissioner of Income Tax and Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), Government of India. Mr Bansal has a Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, University of Delhi and a PG Diploma in Development Studies from Institute of Developing Economies Advanced School, Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Bansal also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Ms. Aneesa Baig is Director: Indirect Tax, Legal Tax Design, at the National Treasury of South Africa, since 2014. Prior to joining the Treasury, Ms. Baig was an Attorney and VAT Legal Advisor at Bower Cardona Inc., and at her own consultancy firm. Her prior positions range among the corporate, consulting and financial sectors, providing advisory on her areas of specialisation, which include South African law and taxation, as well as European and UK indirect taxation. Ms. Baig has been a member of the Tax Court of South Africa since 2006. She holds an LLB from the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa.

Mr. Jacques Sasseville currently works as Inter-regional Adviser in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). His work focusses primarily on assistance programs and training related to the negotiation, application and interpretation of tax treaties. From 1995 to 2016, he was Head of the Tax Treaty Unit at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He previously also worked at the OECD, as Principal Administrator and then Deputy Head of the Fiscal Affairs Division, as well as with the Federal Government of Canada as Counsel in the Tax Counsel Division (Department of Justice) and as Chief, Tax Treaties (Department of Finance).

Mr. Moussa Arreh Abdoul-Fatah is the Head of Tax Policy Unit, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Djibouti. Previously Mr. Abdoul-Fatah was Coordinator of the National Conference on Taxation, Djibouti. He also served as Senior Advisor, responsible for the taxation and the improvement of the business climate in the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Mr. Abdoul-Fatah has a Bachelor’s Degree in Economic and Social Administration, Faculty of Law, University of Burgundy, Dijon, France. He also has a Diploma in Tax Inspection from Ecole Nationale des Impôts — Clermont-Ferrand (ENI), France. Mr. Abdoul-Fatah also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Ms. Titia Stolte-Detring is Deputy Head of Division, International Tax Section, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin. Her previous positions include Desk Officer, General Tax Policy Division, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin, Germany and Head of Division, Customs Section, Regional Finance Office, Berlin and Cottbus, Germany. Ms. Stolte-Detring’s education comprises Second Juridical State Examination, Court of Appeal, Berlin, Germany, First Juridical State Examination (Equivalent to MA) Study of German Law, University of Passau, Germany, and Study of German, English and Spanish Law, University of Passau, Germany. Ms. Stolte-Detring also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.
Ms. Elfrieda Stewart Tamba is Commissioner General, Liberia Revenue Authority. Her previous positions include Deputy Minister of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia and Chief Financial Officer, Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, Monrovia, Liberia. Ms. Tamba has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, Cutting University College, Gbarnga, Liberia and a Master of Business Administration in Finance, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, USA. Ms. Tamba also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Mr. Christophe Waerzeggers is a senior counsel in the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund where he leads the work of the tax law function. In that capacity he advises IMF member countries on tax law design and drafting, and contributes to the Fund’s work on taxation and public finance issues. Before joining the Fund, Mr Waerzeggers practiced tax law in Brussels, Belgium, and lectured in tax and comparative tax law at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

Ms. Alma Kanani is the Practice Manager for Domestic Revenue Mobilization Global Unit at the World Bank that oversees the work of the global tax team on revenue policy and administration. Ms. Kanani joined the World Bank as an economist in 1997 through the Young Professional’s program. She has spent the last 20 years working in different world regions and corporate positions, advising and supporting client countries on fiscal policy and public finance issues, including in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, and Latin America. Prior to joining the Bank, she served as the Director of the Budget Department of the Government of Albania, that was responsible for preparing and managing the national budget. Ms. Kanani is a graduate of the Columbia University in New York City.

Mr. Navid Hanif is the Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which he joined in 2001. He was Senior Policy Adviser in the Department and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UNDESA and focused on policy work. He became the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support. In 2005, he was sent on a special one-year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, and as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed Head of DESA Strategic Planning Unit. He served as Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (2012 - 2018). Mr. Hanif holds Masters in International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York and Masters in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.