

## ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (New York, 29 April 2019)

## **Biographies of panellists**



**Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King,** Seventy-Fourth President of the Economic and Social Council, who comes to diplomacy from the private sector, has lived and worked in several Caribbean countries, the United States of America, and China. She is a small business owner, business strategist, the author of three books, and a management accountant with more than two decades of professional experience. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and chemistry, is the immediate past chair of the Investment Promotions Agency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Invest SVG), and a former Honorary Consul for Portugal to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



**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.



**Ms. Kosha Gada** has built a career in strategic advisory to senior management at the world's premier corporations. Her expertise lies at the nexus of media, digital business models and the economic, policy and cultural shift that has been ignited by innovation in these sectors. She has been a frequent guest on CNBC, BNN and Bloomberg TV and is a contributing writer to Forbes. Kosha holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a B.S. in Computer Science from The Ohio State University.



**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 Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.



**Mr. Carlos Protto** is the Director of International Tax Relations, Ministry of Treasury, Argentina. He is in charge of the tax treaty negotiation and interpretation in Argentina as well its representation at any international tax fora. He also served as Director of Direct Taxation, Ministry of Treasury, Argentina. Mr. Protto holds a Master's Degree in Taxation, Free University of Brussels, Belgium, and a Public Accountant Degree, Buenos Aires University, Argentina. Mr. Protto also serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

**Ms. Marilou Uy** is Director of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24), which consists of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of developing countries. Previously, Ms. Uy was Senior Adviser to the Managing Director of the World Bank. Ms. Uy also held senior management positions at the World Bank, notably Sector Director for the Africa Financial and Private Sector Development Department, Director of the Financial Sector Operations and Policy Department and Chair of the Financial Sector Board that oversaw the Bank's financial sector practice. She joined the World Bank in 1985 as part of its Young Professionals Program. Ms. Uy has worked on financial sector and private sector development as well as issues related to the international financial architecture and financing for development. Ms. Uy pursued her graduate studies in economics and finance at the University of California, Los Angeles.



**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.



**Mr. Irving Aw** is currently appointed as Counsel (Tax Law) in the IMF's Legal Department. He advises on legal tax issues in the context of technical assistance, surveillance, financial assistance programs, and Financial Sector Assessment Programs, and provides tax law design and drafting advice to member countries. Prior to joining the IMF, Mr. Aw practiced tax law as a partner in two Singapore law firms, and before that, was Principal Legal Officer of Law Division and Tax Policy and International Tax Division at the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore. Mr. Aw received his Bachelor of Laws from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK and his Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School, USA.





**Ms. Janet Milne** is Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental Tax Policy Institute at Vermont Law School, USA, where she has taught environmental taxation since 1994. Publications include *Environmental Taxation and the Law* (J. Milne, ed.) and the *Handbook of Research on Environmental Taxation* (J. Milne and M.S. Andersen, eds.). She is a member of the steering committee of the annual Global Conference on Environmental Taxation. Before joining the law faculty, she was tax legislative assistant to US Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, and an attorney at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C.

**Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora** currently works as a consultant for the World Bank, the UN, and the IMF, focusing on tax treaty policy and negotiation, exchange of information, and tax law reform. She is a member of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, coordinating its Subcommittee of Environmental Taxation. From 2011 to 2018, she worked as an advisor to the Director General of the Colombian tax administration (DIAN), heading the tax treaty negotiation team and coordinating the taxation work carried out for the purposes of the accession of Colombia to the OECD. She previously worked as a tax practitioner for various law firms in Colombia.



**Mr. Rodrigo Pizarro** is an economist from the London School of Economics and holds a PhD from Stanford University with over 20 years' experience working on environmental issues. Currently he is a professor at the at the University of Santiago of Chile (USACH). He was the former Head of the Environmental Economics Division of the Ministry of the Environment of Chile (2014-2018), where he was responsible for developing the Chilean Sustainable Consumption and Production Program, developing the Chilean System of Environmental Accounts and designing and implementing the first Environmental Tax in Chile, among other major initiatives.



**Mr. Kurt Van Dender** is Head of the Tax and Environment Unit at the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. His work focuses on the use of taxes to pursue environmental, transport and climate policy objectives, and on the interactions between environmental taxation and the broader tax system. Kurt also works on the nexus of tax and investment policy, and leads the production of flagship OECD publications focusing on carbon pricing trends (Effective Carbon Rates) and the taxation of energy (Taxing Energy Use). Before joining the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, Kurt was the Chief Economist of the International Transport Forum, and Professor of Economics at the University of California at Irvine. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Leuven in Belgium.



**Mr. Gervais Coulombe** is currently the Senior Director of Excise at the Department of Finance Canada, in charge of the policy underlying Canada's excise framework for tobacco, alcohol and motive fuels, as well as the regulatory fuel charge component of the federal carbon pollution pricing system. Since joining the public service in 2006 after a few years in the private sector, he has occupied various positions in the Sales and Excise Tax Division of the Tax Policy Branch. Since 2015, Mr. Coulombe has been the Canadian delegate at the Joint Meeting of Tax and Environment Experts of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. He is a member of the Quebec Bar and has an Advanced Diploma in Taxation from HEC-Montreal.



**Mr. Wilson Prichard** is Associate Professor of Global Affairs and Political Science at the University of Toronto, Research Director of the International Center for Tax and Development, and Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies. His work focuses on the political economy of tax reform and connections between taxation, governance and development, particularly in Africa. He is the author of Taxation, Responsiveness and Accountability in Sub-Saharan Africa (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and Taxing Africa (Zed Books, 2018) and a variety of academic articles. He regularly engages with donors, civil society and governments about their tax reform programs, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Ms. Elfrieda Stewart Tamba** is a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. Her previous positions include Commissioner General, Liberia Revenue Authority, Liberia; 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.



Mr. Ricardo Fuentes Nieva is the Executive Director of Oxfam Mexico since August 2015. Prior to that, he was head of research at Oxfam Great Britain where he directed a high-profile investigation team to support the global campaigns and programs of Oxfam. Among others, he directed the research on economic inequality which is widely referred to in both academic and political circles. Before joining Oxfam Ricardo worked in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) where he was the lead author of the African Human Development Report and co-authored various global reports. He has also worked in the World Bank where he was a co-author on climate change and development for the World Development Report 2010. He has been part of the Ministry of Social Development in Mexico and worked for the Inter-American Development Bank. Ricardo has conducted research on topics of food security, climate change, social security and social policies, regional development, poverty, and inequality. He graduated from the Center for Economic Research and Training (CIDE) in Mexico and received a Master's Degree from the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.



**Mr. Alvin Mosioma** is the founding Executive Director of Tax Justice Network Africa, a Pan-African Advocacy and Research Network working on Tax Justice and curbing of IFFs from Africa. Having spearheaded numerous civil society campaigns since 2007, Mr. Mosioma who served as the Chair of the Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC), is the leading voice on tax policy in Africa. He serves as a member of the advisory board for <u>Plateforme de Protection des</u> <u>Lanceurs d'Alerte en Afrique</u> (PPLAAF) and the board of the coordinating committee of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ). He was also nominated to join the Open Government Partnership as a member of the steering committee. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz and his special interest areas are in fiscal policy, international taxation, financial regulation and natural resource governance.