

WHAT'S NEXT FOR COMMODITY MARKETS? INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON COMMODITY MARKETS

Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022

Time: 10:00am - 5:30pm

Venue: Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Bio of Speakers, Presenters and Moderators



H.E. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly

Abdulla Shahid is widely recognized as an exceptional politician and a seasoned diplomat, with a long and distinguished career serving in both the Government and legislature of Maldives. Since his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2018, for the second time, Mr. Shahid has worked incessantly to reposition Maldives as a responsible and respected member of the international community, by renewing previously strained relationships and building new ones, both in the bilateral and the multilateral domains. He has reinvigorated the country's efforts in the multilateral arena and led national efforts to rejoin the Commonwealth after a four-year hiatus. As a strong advocate for gender equality, he is credited with achieving gender parity among the country's diplomatic Heads of Missions for the first time, as well as in the country's foreign service. Amid the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Mr. Shahid has been one of the leading voices in the international arena highlighting the devastation caused by the global health crisis on the economies and societies of small island developing States. He has continuously drawn attention to the inherent economic vulnerabilities of small island developing States to external shocks and their limited ability to bounce back from disasters. Mr. Shahid began his professional career as a foreign service officer in 1983 and rose through the ranks rapidly. Mr. Shahid holds a master's degree in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Government at the University of Canberra.



H.E. Agnes Maria Chimbiri, PR of Malawi/Chair of LDC

Her Excellency Dr. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations (U.N.) in New York, United States of America (U.S.A.). She was appointed the Permanent Representative in June 2021 by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera. Agnes Chimbiri-Molande has about 15 years of experience in the United Nations. Most recently, she served for over six years as Portfolio Manager for Governance for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Malawi from 2015 to 2021, after serving for eight years as Assistant Resident Representative for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Achievement for UNDP in Malawi from 2008 to 2015. Throughout her tenure with UNDP, Agnes Chimbiri-Molande engaged widely in policy development and implementation, advocacy, and programme management across different governance spheres. She also extensively engaged in legal reforms to promote good governance in Malawi. Under her leadership in UNDP Malawi's Governance Portfolio, she created three data management platforms, an early warning system on conflict prevention; a monitoring system on sexual and gender-based violence; and a monitoring system on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement, helping the UN and Malawi Government to make informed policy decisions in addressing conflicts, violence against women and girls, and poverty.



Mr. Boubaker Ben Belhassen -Director, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

Boubaker Ben-Belhassen is the Director of the Trade and Markets Division, Economic and Social Development Department, and Secretary of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Mr. Ben-Belhassen holds a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. in agricultural economics and an M.A. in economics, all from the University of Missouri, USA. His areas of specialization include commodity market modeling, price and policy analysis and food security issues. He has also strong experience in intergovernmental processes. In September 2013, he was designated as FAO Focal Point for the post-2015 development agenda, coordinating FAO's contributions to the post-2015 process. Previously, he had served as Senior Attaché de Cabinet in the Office of the Director-General of FAO. Mr. BenBelhassen has written on several issues related to food commodity markets, policy developments and global food security.



Ms. Cristina Duarte, USG and Special Adviser on Africa

Ms. Duarte has been appointed by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as Special Adviser on Africa in July 2020. She brings to the position more than 34 years of leadership and strategic management experience in public policy making and in the private sector, coupled with a deep understanding of international and regional cooperation and the challenges facing African countries. She is a Member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, President Paul Kagame's Advisory Committee on African Union Reforms, the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Board of the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development at the UONGOZI Institute. She served as Minister of Finance, Planning and Public Administration in the Republic of Cabo Verde from 2006 to 2016. Prior to this position, she was the Director of a World Bank project on a private sector development and competitiveness programme. She has also served as Director for Planning and Studies in the Cabo Verde Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and as an adviser to many international financial and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Programme, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Ms. Duarte joined Citibank in Kenya, as Manager, Financial Institution Relationship and rose to become the Vice President, Country Corporate Officer and Head of Corporate and Investment Banking of Citibank in Angola. Ms. Duarte holds a Master's in Business Administration/International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management/Thunderbird School of Global Management, an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration from the Economics Institute of the University of Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policies, Planning and Development from the Instituto Superior de Economia in Lisbon, Portugal. She is proficient in English, French, Italian and Portuguese. Ms. Duarte is married and has a daughter.



Mr. Gerd Müller, UNIDO Director General

Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as of 10 December 2021, has had various leadership positions from an early stage in his career. Following his tenure as a Member of the European Parliament, he was appointed Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in 2005. In 2013, he was appointed Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in the German Government. Gerd Müller has many years of experience in the fields of multilateral cooperation, sustainability, sustainable management, and innovative agriculture. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate action, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Beijing Declaration on Gender Equality are key focus areas of his work. He has extensive experience in multilateral cooperation, e.g. as the German Governor of the World Bank and through expanded partnerships e.g. with UNICEF,

UNDP and UNIDO (new programmes on training and jobs, as well as on green hydrogen; the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bonn).



Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief of CRAS, Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Janvier Désiré Nkurunziza is the Chief of Research and Analysis Section in the Commodities Branch, UNCTAD where he directs research on the interaction between primary commodities production, trade, and economic development. For several years, Janvier has been a resource person in the African Economic Research Consortium, a research and capacity building network based in Africa. Before his current position in UNCTAD, Janvier was the officer-in-Charge of the Africa Section, UNCTAD; Macroeconomic Policy Advisor at UNDP, New York; and an economist at UNCTAD and UNECA. Janvier also worked at the University of Oxford; Harvard University; the University of Yaoundé; the University of Burundi; the IMF; the World Bank and the University of Yale as a Consultant. He has published dozens of articles in internationally peer reviewed journals and chapters in edited books. He has coordinated the production of flagship reports, including: UNCTAD's Commodities and Development Report, and Economic Development in Africa Report; the African Economic Outlook; and UNECA's Economic Report on Africa. He holds a doctorate in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he is affiliated with the Center for the Study of African Economies. Janvier is a Fellow of several academic and research institutions. His recent research has focused on commodities and development; the economics of civil war and conflict; capital flight and illicit financial flows; and financial systems in Africa.



Mr. Michael Wurmser, CEO Norge Mining

Founder and Deputy CEO of Norge Mining, Mr. Michael Wurmser is an astute economist and entrepreneur, who advises on the finances and strategic direction of Norge Mining. He has worked for Citibank Zurich and has held a prestigious array of senior positions at multinational financial institutions in New York and Frankfurt. He has previously been mandated by various governments, finance ministries and state banks to help settle sovereign debts. Over the years, Michael has advised on structure financing for companies in the natural resources, commodities and mining sectors in Russia, the Middle East and Mongolia.



Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi, Head of Policy Unit and Deputy Director, Policy Unit and Knowledge, Policy and Finance, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Abu Dhabi

Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi joined IRENA in 2011 where she is currently the Deputy Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance division. She also leads IRENA's Policy Unit, which is responsible for the work on a range of renewable energy policy issues including design, socio-economic benefits, and integrated resource management. Dr. Ferroukhi brought to this position over 20 years of experience in the fields of energy, development, and environment. She worked in both public and private sectors, including with governments in the Middle East and North Africa, energy companies in the Mediterranean region and the GCC, and international institutions. Dr. Ferroukhi holds a master's in applied economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.



Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary general of UNCTAD

Rebeca Grynspan, of Costa Rica, was appointed the eighth Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 13 September 2021. She is the first woman to hold this position in the history of the organization. Prior to her UNCTAD appointment, she was the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference from 2014 to 2021, the first woman to lead the organization. She is also a former Under Secretary-General of the UN and Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and a former Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to joining the UN, she served as Vice President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She also held the positions of Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs and Deputy Finance Minister. A renowned advocate of human development, Ms. Grynspan has helped to focus the world's attention on relevant issues such as the reduction of inequality and poverty, gender equality, South-South cooperation as a tool for development, and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, among others. She was recognized as one of the 100 most powerful women in Central America by Forbes magazine in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, and in 2017 she received the Forbes Award for Excellence. Ms. Grynspan holds a degree in economics from the University of Costa Rica and a master's degree in economics from the University of Sussex. She is currently member of the G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.



Mr. René Bautz, Chairman, Global Gas Center

René Bautz is the Chief executive officer of Gaznat SA since 2008. He is also the Chairman of Gas&com (Telecommunication), the Board director and member of several companies and organizations within the gas industry: the Swiss Gas Industry Association, Gaziers romands, SET (Swiss Energy Trading), Swissgas and Transitgas. He also acts on an international level as chairman of the WEC Global Gas Centre and by participating in GIE, Eurogas and World Energy Council's activities. Ten years ago, René Bautz joined Gaznat where he started his career as Chief technical officer back in 2002. He then served as Chief operating officer before taking over as CEO of Gaznat. Upon completion of electrical engineering studies and passing a Master of Science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), René Bautz dedicated his entire career to the field of energy. Managing director at the Société Electrique des Forces de l'Aubonne (SEFA) for 5 years, he previously served as Director of the Utility of the town of Bienne (ESB). Between 1994 and 1997, he was also the Board director and manager of several companies within the water and energy industries. Within the first 10 years of his career, René Bautz worked for the Power company Electricité Neuchâteloise (ENSA) as Head of the studies and construction, he then joined Câbles Cortaillod (actually Nexans) as Head of the electric network and testing division. As part of his training, he completed an internship on behalf of Brown Boveri Canada in Montreal where he participated in developing a test platform for electric generators. He completed additional training mainly in the field of business economics and management.



Dr. Roberto Echandi - Former Ambassador of Costa Rica to the EU

Dr. Roberto Echandi is a Lead Trade Specialist in the Trade Unit of the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice of the World Bank Group (WBG). From this position, his current work program focuses on research and policy advice on issues related to cross border trade in services, negotiation, implementation and maximization of potential benefits of Economic Integration Trade Agreements. Prior to joining the trade unit, he was the Global Lead for Investment Policy and Promotion of the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice of the WBG. Prior to joining the WBG, he was Director of the Program on International Investment at the World Trade Institute (WTI) of the University of Bern, where he continues to be part of the Advisory Board and Faculty of visiting professors. He is also member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of World Investment and Trade (JWIT), and Adjunct Professor of the Institute of International Studies at the National University of Malaysia. Dr. Echandi was Costa Rica's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union from 2007 to 2010. During the same period, he was also Chief Negotiator for the Association Agreement negotiations between the EU and Central America, where he led the negotiation process on behalf of Costa Rica and in many occasions for the whole Central American

region. From October 2002 until January 2005, he also served as Special Adjunct Ambassador for U.S. Trade Affairs and lead negotiator in services and investment in the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). He has published more than 40 international contributions on the legal and political economy dimensions of investment issues, dispute settlement, trade in services and regional economic integration. He has served as a consultant to the OECD, the WBG, UNCTAD, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and the WTO.



Mr. Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor, China Agricultural University

Dr. Fan is currently the Chair Professor at the College of Economics and Management at the China Agricultural University in Beijing. He previously spent over 20 years with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), including as the Director General for the ten-year period until his departure in December 2019, leading the process of developing two institutional strategies, fundraising strategies, financing plans, and governance and operational strategies and plans. His previous roles within IFPRI included several years as the Division Director, Development Strategy and Governance, and prior to that, as a Research Fellow. His earlier professional experience also includes time as a Research Economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the University of Arkansas and as a Post-doctoral Fellow and Associate Research Officer at the International Service for National Agricultural Research in the Netherlands. Dr. Fan has sat on a wide range of expert panels and advisory bodies. He is currently a member of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, an independent international group of leaders that works with international, multi-sector stakeholders to help governments in low- and middle-income countries develop evidence-based policies that make high-quality diets safe, affordable, and accessible. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford, whose academics work across more than 30 solutions-focused, pioneering research programs that cut across disciplines to find solutions to the world's most urgent challenges. Other positions include membership on the Board of the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and the Council of Advisers of the World Food Prize. He is a recipient of various international awards and has been extensively published.



Ms. Usha Rao Monari, USG and Asoc. Administrator

Ms. Usha Rao has been appointed by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in February 2021. As Senior Adviser to Blackstone's Infrastructure Group, Ms. Rao-Monari is an investment professional with almost 30 years of investment experience, particularly in the infrastructure area. She previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Global Water Development Partners, a Blackstone portfolio company, and held several senior positions, notably as Director of the Sustainable Business Advisory Group at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group. She currently serves on the Boards of a number of organizations in the field of sustainable development and has held a number of Board and advisory positions in the areas of water, natural capital, biodiversity and environment. She holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Finance, School of International and Public Affairs/School of Business, Columbia University, New York, a Master's degree in Management Studies, Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management, Mumbai, India and a B.A. Honors Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi.



Ms. Xiaolan Fu – Professor, Oxford University

Xiaolan Fu (傅晓岚) is the Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Professor of Technology and International Development, Fellow of Green Templeton College, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Ten-Member High Level Advisory Group of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism and to the Governing Council of the UN's Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. She is also a member of the UN SDSN Leadership Council led by Jeffrey Sachs and a member of the Council for Global Economic Transformation co-chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and Michael Spence. She is the 2019 winner of the CFA Asia-Pacific Research Exchange Award (CFA Institute), the 2018 winner of the Best Journal Paper of the Year Award (European Academy of International Business), and the 2017 winner of the Best Paper Award (European Association of Management (EURAM) Innovation Strategic Interest Group). Her research interests include innovation, technology, and industrialization; trade, foreign direct investment and economic development; emerging Asian economies; innovation and productivity in the UK/US.