

UNCTAD MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON Trade, Services and Development

9th Session

4–6 July 2022, Hybrid (online and Palais des Nations, Room XVII), 2.30–4.30 p.m. CEST

Opening plenary session

Opening statement



Rebecca 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. She is also coordinator of the Task Team of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance set up by the UN Secretary-General to help support developed and developing countries face the economic shocks related to the war in Ukraine

Introduction



Miho Shirotori is a rotating Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Head of the Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy (TSCE) branch. Miho leads a team that assesses regional and multilateral trade agreements and the contribution of the services sectors and the creative industries towards inclusive and sustainable transformation and economic diversification. She represents UNCTAD in various inter-agency activities, including the UN inter-agency task force that monitors the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Plan for the Financing for Development. Miho holds a master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Keynote speaker



Bernard Hoekman is Professor and Director, Global Economics, at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute. He has held management positions in the World Bank working on international trade issues and served as an economist in the GATT Secretariat. A CEPR Research Fellow and ERF Senior Associate, he is a graduate of the Erasmus University Rotterdam and holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. His research focuses on commercial policy, trade in services, public procurement, global governance and the WTO.

Note: The biographic information and photos in this document are included as provided by the distinguished speakers and panellists of the multi-year expert meeting on trade, services and development.

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DISCUSSANTS

Session 1. **Services trade, economic diversification and resilience to economic shocks**



Jong Woo Kang is the principal economist at the Economic Research and Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He was Senior Advisor to the Managing Director General of ADB and Senior Economist at Strategy and Policy Department at ADB. He leads the annual publication of Asian Economic Integration Report. Before joining ADB in 2006, he was director at Ministry of Finance and Economy of Korea.



Desire Loumou, is a Senior International Trade Expert, with high specialised knowledge of the multilateral trading system and particularly Trade in Services, Intellectual Property and Environment Law. Lawyer and Patent and Trademark Attorney, he is currently Senior Trade Expert on Trade in Services at the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana.



Chantal Ononaiwu, is the Trade Policy and Legal Specialist in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat's Directorate of the CARICOM Single Market and Trade, based in Barbados, where she advises the Community and its Member States on external trade negotiations and other matters pertaining to international trade and investment.



Anu Peltola is the Acting Director of UNCTAD Statistics overseeing work on trade and development statistics, and SDG indicators. UNCTAD Statistics support countries' statistical capacity, develop new statistics, standards, and tools, and publish SDG Pulse and Handbook of Statistics for insights. She started her career in Statistics Finland in 1999 and joined UNECE Statistics in 2009.

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Session 2. The potential for diversification towards and through digitally deliverable services



Xiaolan Fu is the Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, Professor of Technology and International Development at the University of Oxford, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Her research interests include innovation, technology and industrialisation; trade, foreign direct investment and economic development; and emerging Asian economies. She is appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Governing Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and to the Ten-Member High Level Advisory Group of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism. She is a winner of 2021 Falling Walls Scientific Breakthrough Award. She has published extensively in leading international journals. Her recent books include *Innovation Under the Radar, China's Path to Innovation, China's Role in Global Economic Recovery*, and *The Rise of Technological Power in the South*.



Rupa Chanda is the Director of the Trade, Investment, Innovation Division at UNESCAP and formerly Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. She has a PhD in Economics from Columbia University. Her research interests include the WTO, services trade, regional integration, and migration. She has undertaken research for international and Indian organizations and has published books, journal articles, book chapters, and reports.



Janos Ferencz is a trade policy analyst at the Trade in Services Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He works on analysing policy trends affecting services trade globally using the OECD's Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI), and manages the annual update of the STRI regulatory database and indices. Additionally, Janos' work covers digital trade focusing on lowering trade barriers for digitally enabled services. He developed the OECD Digital STRI tool, and contributed to analysis on digital trade and market openness, cross-border data flows, and the trade implications of new digital technologies such as artificial intelligence. Janos also engages with various international and regional partners, including APEC and ASEAN, to assist interested economies in benefitting from the STRI tools. Janos is a jurist with background in international trade law.

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Session 3. Pursuing the potential for diversification – Trade and cooperation frameworks for digitally deliverable services



Deborah Elms is the Founder and Executive Director of the Asian Trade Centre and the President of the Asia Business Trade Association. Concurrently, she is a member of APCO's International Advisory Council, the G20 Trade and Investment Research Network, and the Advisory Board of the Trade and Investment Negotiation Adviser at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. She is also a Research Associate at the New Zealand APEC Study Centre and a Senior Fellow of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Academy of Singapore. Dr. Elms has extensive experience working with governments, international organizations, businesses, and the academe and is one of the leading experts on trade policy in the region.



Jorge Arbache is the Vice President for Private Sector at the Development Bank of Latin America – CAF and professor of economics at the University of Brasília. Arbache is an expert on development finance and development economics and has published regularly on those areas and related fields. Arbache has served as Deputy Minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Planning of Brazil; Chief Economist at the Ministry of Planning; Executive Secretary of the Brazil-China Investment Fund; Senior Economic Advisor to the Presidency of the Brazilian Development Bank – BNDES; Senior Economist at the World Bank; and Economist at the International Labor Organization.



Keith Nurse is the Principal/CEO of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in Saint Lucia. He has worked as Senior Economist and Advisor on Structural Policies and Innovation at the OECD Development Centre in Paris. He is the former World Trade Organization Chair at the University of the West Indies where he also served as the Director of the Shridath Ramphal Trade Policy Centre, Executive Director of UWI Consulting Inc., Senior Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies and Senior Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations. He serves on the executive bureau of the UN Committee for Development Policy, a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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