

Capacity Development Webinar Series
**“Strengthening the Role of Public Institutions in Achieving Poverty
Eradication and Sustainable Development”**

Part II

16 October 2020
9:00 – 11:00 am (EDT)

Bios of Speakers

Opening Remarks:

**Mr. LIU Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department
of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Mr. Liu Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. Liu brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

Mr. Liu started his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1982. Since then, he has served the Ministry in various capacities, including as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (2009-2011); Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2006-2009); Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (2003-2006); and Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law (1998-2003). He also served in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (1992-1995) and in the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (1984-1988).

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Mr. Liu holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University. He was born in August 1955 in Shanxi Province, China. Mr. Liu is married

Mr. ZHANG Jun, Permanent Representative of China to the UN



Mr. Zhang Jun, born in Jilin Province of China in August 1960, holds a Bachelor of Laws from Jilin University in China and a Master of Laws from Hull University in the United Kingdom.

1984-1988 Staff member, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MFA)

1988-1990 Attaché, General Office, MFA

1990-1990 Attaché, Third Secretary, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, MFA

1990-1994 Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

1994-1999 Second Secretary, Deputy Division Director, Division Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, MFA

1999-2000 Counselor, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, MFA

2000-2002 Deputy Director of the Administration Committee of the Ningbo Economic and Technological Development Zone of Zhejiang Province

2002-2004 Deputy Director-General, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, MFA

2004-2007 Secretary, General Office of the State Council

2007-2012 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

2012-2018 Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, MFA

2018- 2019 Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs

2019- Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

He is married and has a daughter.

Mr. Li Ji, Vice President of China National Academy of Governance (CNAG)



Mr. Li Ji, born in Jilin Province of China in 1961, holds a Bachelor of Philosophy from Northeast Normal University. He is the Vice President of China National Academy of Governance (CNAG).

1986-1995 Teaching Assistant, Section Chief, Deputy Director at the General Office, Beijing Electronic Science and Technology Institute.

1995-2001 Secretary at the General Office, Beijing Electronic Science and Technology Institute.

2001-2004 Deputy Director-General of the General Office of the Chinese Academy of Governance.

2004-2009 Director-General of the General Office of the Chinese Academy of Governance.

2009-2015 A Member of the Commission for Discipline Inspection and Director-General of the General Office of the Chinese Academy of Governance.

2015-2018 A member of the CPC Committee of Chinese Academy of Governance, and Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Governance.

2018- present Vice President of China National Academy of Governance

Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chairperson of UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration



Ms. Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi is the Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University. She was the former Special Envoy on Gender at the African Development Bank. In this role, she led a strategy to mainstream gender in the Bank's policies and operations, making the Bank a reference institution on gender equality in Africa. She was previously Director of the Democratic Governance Group of the United Nations Development Programme, with activities in more than 170 countries, supported from six regional service centres. She served in the South African Government as Minister of Public Service and Administration for two consecutive terms. As Minister, she led the development of

a senior management service within the South African public service; oversaw a comprehensive review of the public service remuneration system; revitalized the "Batho Pele" strategy within the public service; and established the Government Employees Medical Scheme and Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy. She also served as Chair of the Pan African Ministers of Public Service for three consecutive terms and has worked on intergovernmental bodies globally and in Africa. While Minister for Public Service and Administration, she served as a member of the United

Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration. As Minister for Welfare and Population Development in the first democratic Government of South Africa, she introduced the Government's white papers on social welfare (1997) and on population policy (1998) in the Parliament, worked on the development and implementation of the Child Support Grant and chaired the Ministerial Team on Children and Youth at Risk. She served as Deputy Minister of Welfare and coordinated the country's preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. Ms. Fraser-Moleketi also served as Deputy Leader of the South African delegation to the Conference and represented South Africa at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995. In addition, she served as member of the South African Parliament for three consecutive terms, from 1994 until her resignation in September 2008, and was a member of the Constituent Assembly and various subcommittees responsible for drawing up the South African Constitution adopted on 8 May 1996. She served on the Management Committee of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and was Deputy National Coordinator of the National Elections Commission of the African National Congress in preparation for the country's first democratic elections. Mrs. Fraser-Moleketi serves on various boards across academia, government and development organizations on issues related to youth, the empowerment of women, capacity development and education, governance and poverty eradication. She also serves as non-executive director on the boards of listed companies. She is a fellow of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, and holds a Master's Degree in Administration. Mrs. Fraser-Moleketi was named 2016 New African Woman of the Year and was conferred a Doctorate of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

H.E Ms. María Del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Republic of Costa Rica



In office, Minister Garrido is the leader of the stewardship in public employment, national planning, public investment, State modernization, international cooperation and evaluation; as well as Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the National Commission of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). She is also designated as the Coordinator of the Government Economic Team and leader of the Growth, Employment and Welfare Strategy and Coordinator of Costa Rica in the Public Governance Committee of OECD, as well as Co-coordinator of the Accession Process to the State

Owned Enterprises Committee of OECD.

Among her results, she was the leader of the creation of the National Development and Public Investment Plan of the Government 2019-2022, the National Evaluation Policy, the Law Project about Public Employment and of different initiatives for the modernization of the State, the evaluation of the public sector employees and the improvement of the public investment process in the country.

Minister Garrido is an Honorary Graduated of Political Sciences, from the University of Costa Rica and has a Master's degree in Democratic Governance and Public Politics, from the University of Costa Rica; as well as a Master's degree in Economics from the Trinity College of Dublin.

- Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy.
- Former Chief of Staff, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy.

- Researcher and consultant of human local development topics for the University of Costa Rica, Aliarse, Funpadem, and UNDP.

H.E. Mr. Tojiddin Jurazoda, Deputy Minister responsible for National Strategic Development Planning and SDG Focal Point, Republic of Tajikistan



Mr. Tojiddin Jurazoda, Deputy Minister of economic development and trade, Leading research fellow of the Institute of economy and demography of the National Academy of Science of Tajikistan

Professional Experience:

- 2017-Present, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade
- 2015-2017, Deputy Chairman at Local Development Committee under the President of Tajikistan
- 2014-Present, Lead Research Fellow at Department of Macroeconomic and Regional Researches, National Academy of Science of Tajikistan, and Institute of Economy and Demography

Education Background:

- 2014, PhD in economics, Estonia
- 2010, Candidate of Economic Science, Moscow, Russia
- 2006-2011, Research Fellow at Institute of Economy of the Academy of Science of Tajikistan
- 1998-2001, Obtained Diploma in Diploma in Economics at Oriental Department of Tajik State University
- 1987-1993, Obtained Diploma in Hindi Language and Literature at Department of Taxation, Tajik Institute for Tax and Law,

Ms. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator in Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau



Simona Marinescu currently serves as United Nations Resident Coordinator for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, leading a UN Country Team of 27 UN agencies operating in the Pacific. Prior to this position, Simona Marinescu led the Development Impact Group in UNDP New York covering programme effectiveness, results monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the Executive Board as well as South-South Cooperation, Knowledge Management and Innovation and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

Before working in UNDP New York, Simona Marinescu was the Director of the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development that was established as a global policy center to leverage the contribution of businesses to sustainable development through

partnerships and innovation. Simona served in Iraq for 9 years as UNDP Senior Economist and Programme Director for Economic Reforms as well as USAID Sector Lead for Social Safety Net and Pension Reforms and World Bank Social Protection specialist.

Before joining international organizations, Simona Marinescu was an elected Senator in the Parliament of Romania and a Minister of Labor and Social Protection.

Simona Marinescu holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics, a BA in International Economic Relations and an MBA, a Master of Science and a BA in Computer Science from the University of Bucharest. She also graduated Leadership and Communication at Harvard University and Labour Market Administration at Cyprus International Institute of Management.

Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh



Mia Seppo joined the United Nations Country Team in Bangladesh as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in October 2017.

Prior to her appointment in Bangladesh, Ms. Seppo has served as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malawi from April 2013 to October 2017, where among other initiatives she coordinated the UN system and partner support to the tripartite elections held in May 2014, the devastating floods in 2015 and the humanitarian response to the food insecurity crisis in 2016-2017.

Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the UNDP Country Director in Sierra Leone, leading the UN support to the tripartite elections held in 2012. Ms. Seppo contributed to the UN's work on aid coordination and development effectiveness in both countries. In partnership with the UN Peace Building Mission, Ms. Seppo led

UNDP's work on conflict prevention in Sierra Leone and the establishment of a National Peace Architecture in Malawi.

Ms. Seppo served in the Regional Bureau for Africa in New York from 2005 to 2010, covering a portfolio of crisis countries, in particular the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Earlier, Ms. Seppo worked for a decade on the countries of the former Soviet Union focusing on Central Asia and the Caucasus, as part of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS in the UN HQs in New York. She was appointed as the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Tajikistan in 2002 to support the post-conflict recovery and reintegration programmes of UNDP at a decentralized level.

Ms. Seppo started her UN career in 1996 with a focus on governance and human rights issues. Prior to her joining the UN, Ms. Seppo worked for civil society and think tanks, including the Finnish Committee for European Security.

Ms. Seppo is a Finnish national and holds a master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Ms. Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the Agenda 2030, the Digital Transition, Sports, Territorial and Metropolitan Coordination, and International Relations, Spain



Laia Bonet is the Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the Agenda 2030, the Digital Transition, Sports, Territorial and Metropolitan Coordination, and International Relations. A lawyer by training, she is a professor of Administrative Law (Pompeu Fabra University) and Communications Law (Blanquerna- Ramon Llull University).

Prior to her current role as Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, she was Secretary of the Government of Catalonia (2007-2010), and a member of the Parliament of Catalonia (2010-2012), where she was deputy spokesperson for the Socialist Parliamentary Group.

Mr. Li Jiangtao, Deputy Director-General of Department of Public Administration, China National Academy of Governance



Doctor Li Jiangtao is a Professor, Doctoral Supervisor, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Public Administration, China National Academy of Governance (CNAG). He is also an Executive Member of the Council, Deputy Secretary-General, China Society for Public Economics, an Executive Member of the Council, China Society of Emergency Management, a peer review expert of the National Social Science Foundation, and a letter evaluation expert of Chang Jiang Scholars Program. He has also served as the Director of Industrial Economy and Economic Theory History Office and the Director of Regional Economics Office of the Department of Economics, CNAG.

He has long been engaged in the research on industrial, regional, macro economy and others. He has presided over 20 research projects including those funded by the National Social Science Fund of China, the major national-level projects of the "Twelfth Five-Year Plan", the major national-level projects of the "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan" in energy sector, and the research project of China's macroeconomic strategy featuring low-carbon development. He has participated in the major national-level consulting tasks assigned by central government of China. He has published 3 monographs, and his fourth book Research on the Implementation Mechanism of Rural Revitalization Strategy will soon be published and distributed by the People's Publishing House. He has been the leading professor in various domestic and international training programs of the CNAG for a long period of time.

He was awarded National-Level Expert of the "National Hundred, Thousand, and Ten Thousand Talents Project" (2013), National Young and Middle-Aged Expert with Outstanding Contribution (2013), Recipient of the Special Allowance of the State Council (2014). He was selected into National-Level Expert of the "National Hundred, Thousand, and Ten Thousand Talents Project" (2013) and was awarded the title of "National Young and Middle-aged Experts with Outstanding Contributions" (2013). He was approved to receive the Special Allowance of the State Council (2014).

Mr. Patrick Osakwe, Chief of Trade and Poverty Branch, UNCTAD, Geneva



Patrick Osakwe holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Queen's University, Canada. He is currently Chief of the Trade and Poverty Branch at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development based in Geneva, Switzerland. He has also served as Chief of Finance, Industry and Investment at the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Before joining the United Nations, he worked as a Senior Analyst at the Bank of Canada, Ottawa.

Dr. Osakwe has done extensive research in international and development economics and has refereed publications in major economic journals and books. He has won several academic awards, prizes, and fellowships. He is a valedictorian, a fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society, and a member of the

editorial boards of the "Journal of African Development", published by Penn State University Press, and the "International Development Policy" published by the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

Ms. Sabina Alkire, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Oxford University



Sabina Alkire directs the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). She is the Associate Professor of Development Studies in the Oxford Department of International Development at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis, welfare economics, the capability approach, the measurement of freedoms and human development. From 2015–16, Sabina was Oliver T Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics at George Washington University. Previously, she worked at the Global Equity Initiative

at Harvard University, the Human Security Commission, and the World Bank's Poverty and Culture Learning and Research Initiative. She holds a DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford.

Together with co-author Professor James Foster, Sabina developed the Alkire-Foster (AF) method for measuring multidimensional poverty, a flexible technique that can incorporate different dimensions to create measures tailored to each context. With colleagues at OPHI this has been applied and implemented empirically to produce a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI offers a tool to identify who is poor by considering the range of deprivations they suffer, and to report the MPI as a headline figure of poverty, together with a detailed information platform for policy design, showing how people are poor nationally as well as by areas and groups, and by each indicator.

Mr. Adil Ababou, Manager of the Political Economy and Governance Sector, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab(J-PAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)



Adil Ababou is a Policy Manager at J-PAL, where he manages the Political Economy and Governance sector and supports J-PAL's engagement in the Middle East North Africa Region. He works with governments, foundations and NGOs to apply scientific evidence to policies and programs that improve political participation, reduce corruption, and build state capacity.

Prior to joining J-PAL in 2019, Adil worked for eight years with governments in Africa and the Middle East on public finance, focusing on issues of debt sustainability, development financing, and budget reform. From 2010, as a French Treasury official, he helped provide multilateral debt relief to low-income countries with the Paris Club Secretariat and coordinated the economic relationship with the Middle East region through project finance and bilateral agreements. In 2015, he joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development (EBRD) as an economist and supported the design of programs for North Africa. In 2017, he joined the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) in South Africa where he launched a Pan-African initiative that provides African governments direct support for budget reform using the problem-driven iterative adaptation approach. He was also a teaching assistant in economics at Sciences Po Paris and Pantheon-Sorbonne University between 2011 and 2015.

Adil holds an MSc. in Management from ESCP Europe, an M.Phil in International economics from Pantheon-Sorbonne University and an MPA/International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School where he was awarded an Emirates Leadership Initiative scholarship. He is a native French and Arabic speaker, and proficient in Spanish and German.