Role of public institutions on the transformative impact of new technologies
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Profiles of Experts

Amir Banifatemi, PhD – an entrepreneur and investor, is currently the General Manager of Innovation and Growth and leading AI initiatives with the XPRIZE foundation. He is a co-founder the AI Commons Initiative, and co-founder and curator of the AI for Good Global Summit with the ITU and UN Agencies. He has managed two venture capital funds and continues to support and advise companies and initiatives with a focus on practical and democratic access to new technologies to help with the transformation of humanity and society. AI for Good has gained wide adoption and is being recognized as a main area of focus for AI research as well as industry and government focus. There is a concerted effort and large resources deployed to demonstrate how AI can provide new ways of approaching problems and meaningfully improve people’s lives. To allow for impactful deployment of solutions for Good requires a concerted and collaborative effort across all sectors of society. Public policy and governance for access to quality data and computing, storage and networks are essential for larger deployment of applications for the common good. He holds a Master’s degree in Electrical and Engineering from the University of Technology of Compiègne, a Doctorate in Systems Design and cognitive sciences from the University Paris Descartes as well as an MBA from HEC Paris.

Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, PhD - has more than 20 years of experience in Trade & Transport Facilitation and electronic Business within UNECE where she is the Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section, responsible among other of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). She manages a group of some 500 experts working on Trade Facilitation and eBusiness projects to produce Trade Facilitation Recommendations and eBusiness standards, that can foster growth in international trade and related services. In her former position in the UNECE’s Transport Division, she provided training and advisory services to promote the development of border-crossing and transport facilitation. She holds a PhD in Transport Policy and Economics, a Master’s in Political Science and one in International Commercial Law.

Luís Soares Barbosa, PhD- is Deputy Head of UNU-EGOV. He is also Associate Professor with Habilitation at the Department of Informatics at the University of Minho. He is also senior researcher at the High Assurance Software Laboratory at Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores – Tecnologia e Ciência (HASlab INESC TEC). In recent years he has coordinated six research projects at the national level, bilateral partnerships with Brazil and China, and served as the Portuguese coordinator for the Language Engineering and Rigorous Software Development ALFA EU-Latin America network. He coordinates the PF-FLAD Chair on “Smart Cities & Smart Governance”, established at the University of Minho with private funding.

Rachel Chen – is the Director of Digital Readiness and Learning at the Ministry of Communications and Information in Singapore. She leads the National Digital Readiness Programme Office which is responsible for driving the whole-of-nation strategy, policy, programmes and research to help raise the digital readiness of Singaporeans – i.e. for all to be able to use technology for in a way that is beneficial and meaningful, especially for vulnerable groups at risk of being on the wrong side of the digital divide. The Office also drives public education efforts for information and media literacy, especially in the current drive to tackle deliberate online falsehoods. Rachel also leads the Library & Learning policy team which oversees the National Library Board, helping to develop and drive policies to ensure that the libraries and archives of the future remain relevant and integral to Singapore’s development as a nation of lifelong learners. These include reading and learning programmes, infrastructure planning for public libraries in Singapore, the collection, preservation and access provision of Singapore’s documentary history and heritage, and the management of government records.
Nicola Coniglio - (PhD in Economics, University of Glasgow) is an Associate Professor in Economic Policy at the University of Bari (Italy). He conducts teaching and research activities in human capital and development, international trade and factor mobility, the economics of migration, urban and regional economics. He is an international expert for UNIDO (Vienna) and cooperates with several colleagues based at international and national institutions (Norwegian School of Economics, Norway; Cracow School of Economics, Poland; University of Lille, France; University of Luxembourg; University of Bergen, Norway; Chukyo University and Tohoku Gakuin University, Japan; Cerpem, Italy). He has published several papers in international refereed journals and has extensive teaching experience in international post-graduate courses. He is the Italian director of the Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in “Economics of Globalisation and European Integration” which is run by a consortium of European and non-European Universities (www.egei.eu). He was awarded with the EPAINOS prize for the best paper presented at the European Regional Science Association meetings in 2003 and 2004.

Mariana Dahan - the Founder and CEO of World Identity Network—an initiative launched on Sir Richard Branson’s Necker Island this past summer. She is striving to bring together world’s brightest minds and leverage the potential of DLT and blockchain technologies to solve some of humanity’s toughest challenges, such as the trafficking of human beings. WIN has partnered with several UN agencies and the government of the poorest country in Europe to launch the “Blockchain for Humanity” Global Challenge that resulted in a series of very impressive solutions being developed with AI and blockchain technologies. She started her career in the telecommunications industry in 1998, and later became interested in the patterns of diffusion of innovations – a topic she has studied extensively in her PhD research work, while being at the European Business School in France and at the MIT Sloan School of Management in the United States. Having worked for mobile operators in both developed and developing countries, she gained valuable insights on new technologies’ impact on economic growth. She also worked with governments from low- and middle-income countries, as part of the global Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) practice of the World Bank, based in Washington, DC. She was the Coordinator of the Identification for Development (ID4D) Working Group: a bold initiative that aims at formulating a coherent cross-sectoral approach to civil registration and identification systems in client countries, in close coordination with other development agencies. As part of her previous work at the World Bank, she had also managed the Identity Management (IDM) Experts Group, building strategic partnerships with governments, private sector companies, research labs and civil society organizations across the world. (Written contribution)

Julia Glidden, PhD is General Manager, Global Government Industry for the IBM Corporation. An internationally recognised expert on Digital Government, Dr Glidden has direct responsibility for driving transformational change for IBM clients across the globe. Julia is currently serving as an expert advisor to the United Nations, the World Economic Forum and the European Commission, where she sits on an expert working group for the new 2018/19 Horizon 2020 Programme. An accomplished TedX speaker and Top 100 global GovTech influencers, Julia is regularly asked to speak around the world on emerging digital policy trends. A Senior Research Fellow at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Dr. Glidden has authored numerous articles on Digital Government, Open Data & Smart Cities. Prior to joining IBM, she founded a boutique innovation consultancy that advised governments around the world on technology disruption. Dr. Glidden completed her PhD. in International Relations at Oxford University.

Valentine Goddard –is a recognized expert on the ethical and social implications of artificial intelligence. She founded the AI on a Social Mission Conference, an event designed to facilitate a cross sectoral and multidisciplinary dialogue on the ethical and social implications of AI. She is also the founder of Artificial Intelligence Impact Alliance (AIIA), a non-profit aimed at empowering civil society organizations with machine learning as well as driving policy towards an ethical and sustainable implementation of AI. As a lawyer and certified mediator, she has practiced refugee, labour, social and administrative law in addition to lobbying for a better access to justice. She has taught comparative law in Japan as well as initiated and funded cultural mediation projects aimed at human rights education. In short, human dignity is at the heart of her multidisciplinary approach to nurturing the development of AI for Social Good. Collaborators of AIIA offer consulting, training and workshops on the societal and ethical impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our projects generate opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration between civil society, entrepreneurs, academics and policy makers. Our business model is built to empower non-profits and support research geared towards AI for social missions and give civil society weight in the implementation of AI. (Written contribution)
**Irvin Halman** – currently serves as President of the Latin America and Caribbean e-Government Network (Red GEALC); Secretary in the Board of the National Council for Government Innovation; President of the Advisory Board for Universal Service and Access; member of the Competitiveness Council of the Government of Panama; Secretary of the Board of Directors of the public interest association for Infoplazas and participates in the Board of Trustees of the National Competitiveness Center public-private sector partnership. He has a Bachelor of Science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and an MBA from the University of Rochester. He participated in the Kellogg School of Management Executive Program at Northwestern University, Chicago IL. He began his career in Product Development at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, NY and later served in management positions, including Business Manager for the Clinical Diagnostics Division of Eastman Kodak Co., Johnson & Johnson in Latin America, Managing Director at DIASA and Commercial Director at ELGA. He is Past President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama (2012-13) and former President of the Corporate Governance Institute of Panama (2009-12), Director of Empresas Aliadas, S.A. He also served as President of the Board of Directors of the Private Sector Council for Educational Assistance (CoSPAE) and is currently a member of its Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT). *(Written contribution)*

**Nibal Idlebi**, PhD is the Chief of Innovation Section at the United Nation-Economic Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). She led several activities for: promoting Innovation policy for sustainable development, developing knowledge economy, supporting digital government transformation, encouraging the formulation of cyber legislation and enhancing digital Arabic content in the Arab region. She supervises the preparation of studies and reports, the organization of expert meetings and capacity building workshops and the implementation of regional projects in the various domains related to knowledge based economy and information society. She also provides advisory services in these areas, and she is currently leading the Innovation Section and the ESCWA project on Open Government. In the past three years, she was focusing on Innovation Policy and its impact of social and economic development. She led the formulation of the ESCWA study on “Innovation Policy for inclusive Sustainable development in the Arab region”, the “UN-Wide Capacity Building Workshop on Innovation Policy for SDGs” and several experts group meetings on Innovation and Technology for SDGs. These activities showed the importance on Innovation for: government and public sector, SME and entrepreneurs, local community and NGOs. She led regional initiatives in the Arab region such as “Harmonization of Cyber Legislation for building Knowledge Society in the Arab region” and “Promoting Digital Arabic content through Incubation”. She also directed research for the preparation of various reports as "Regional Profile of Information Society in the Arab region", "Cyber safety in the Arab region" and "Digital Arabic Content". She has a computer engineering degree from “Ecole Supérieure d’Electricité (Supelec)” in France, and a Ph.D in Computer Science from Nancy 1 University in France.. *(Written contribution)*

**Thure Krarup** – is Project Head for Sustainable Development Engagement at the World Economic Forum, seconded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this capacity he supports the Forum’s engagement on the SDG-agenda and liaises with governments, organisations and businesses on strengthening World Economic Forum’s position in the space and feeds into programming for the Forum’s events, primarily the Sustainable Development Impact Summit during UNGA week, the Annual Meeting in Davos and regional meetings. He is also liaising closely with Forum project teams in the fields of technology/Fourth Industrial Revolution, climate, energy, circular economy, food and water. Prior to this, he was Head of the Danish Prime Minister’s Private Secretariat and has 10 years’ experience in the Danish foreign service.

**Ibrahim Kushchu**, PhD -is the founder of the field of mobileGovernment – the use of mobile technologies in the public sector to offer services to citizens. His expertise also covers community informatics, enterprise mobility, management systems and artificial intelligence. Combining his management studies and his expertise in artificial intelligence, he has been working for business schools in the UK and in Japan - teaching various information communication technology courses related to ICT, electronic business and mobile business. His work also extends to impact of mobile technologies on economic and social development. He has developed strategies and road map for mobile technology utilization in public services for various countries in the world including recent ones in Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates. He has been working with various multi-national organizations including the Gates Foundation, Cisco, Nokia, Hitachi and NTT DoCoMo at projects involving consultancy, research, and educational events. He has edited and co-edited three books and has a number of publications in various international journals and in the proceedings of reputable conferences. He has an MBA and a Master’s degree (MSc) in artificial intelligence from the University of Edinburgh, UK and was awarded a PhD degree in evolutionary artificial intelligence from the
LIST OF EXPERTS - Role of public institutions on the transformative impact of new technologies, 6-7 December 2018, New York

Enzo Maria Le Fevre, PhD, is a Senior Expert on International and European Affairs working in the international activities coordination and in the Technical Secretariat and Public Relations Office at the Agency for Digital Italy- Presidency of the Council of Ministers (AgID). He works in the international projection of the Agency’s activities, particularly those focusing on digital governance and Artificial Intelligence. Specifically, he closely collaborates with the OECD as the Agency’s delegate in the expert and thematic groups where AgID is involved. He has recently participated to the OECD Digital Government Review of Colombia and Brazil, and since September 2017 he is coordinating the Thematic Group on Emerging Technologies (AI & Blockchain) of the OECD Working Party of Senior Digital Government Officials (E-Leaders). He is also a Senior Lecturer of International Law and Diplomacy at LUISS University in Rome and a Researcher on international practices of digital governance at the Laboratory on Innovation and Artificial Intelligence of the University of Buenos Aires. Since 2002 he has covered numerous leading positions in governmental and non-governmental institutions. Currently a fellow at the European Center for International Affairs, he also served as research associate at the CICR of Columbia University. He holds a Ph.D. in international and European studies with a focus on international law and theory of the state, an MA in International Relations (with honours), and a postgraduate specialization in International Law and Public Law.

Preetam Maloor - is a Senior Strategy and Policy Advisor in the Strategic Planning and Membership department of the ITU General Secretariat, and an expert on Artificial Intelligence and international cyber-related public policy matters. He has been a key member of the ITU Secretariat at several major conferences including the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), 2010, 2014 and 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary conferences, the 2009 and 2013 World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forums (WTPF), and the 2017 and 2018 AI for Global Good Summit. He also serves as the Secretary of the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues. Prior to joining ITU, Preetam spent nearly 10 years in the private sector, working primarily at research organizations such as Intelligent Automation Inc, a Rockville, Maryland-based research think-tank focusing on Artificial Intelligence-based applications, and at AT&T Research Labs, Florham Park, New Jersey in its Speech & Natural Language Research Group. He holds Master’s degrees in Computer Science from Texas A&M University, College Station, and in Engineering and Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Mumbai.

Odhran James McCarthy - is a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. He supports the Centre in designing, developing and implementing its programme of work. Prior to this, he was engaged in monitoring and evaluating projects implemented within the framework of the European Union’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative and the European Union’s initiative on Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity Capabilities in the South Caucasus and Central Asian Countries. He is particularly interested in the impact of advancements in science and technology, such as biotechnology, the internet of things, artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum computing, and virtual and augmented reality. He has a background in international law and the law of international organizations, having studied at University College Cork, Ireland; Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany; and the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands.

Trent McConaghy, PhD - did AI research for two decades, including machine creativity and AI to help drive Moore’s Law, via two startups (both acquired) and a PhD. Now he focuses on AI * blockchain, via Ocean to democratize AI data. Ocean is a decentralized substrate for AI data / compute marketplaces to unlock datasets and facilitate privacy-preserving compute; with applications in autonomous driving, medical diagnosis, and more. He's given invited talks at TedX, Stanford, MIT, Berkeley, Jet Propulsion Lab, Santa Fe Institute, and more; and has written two textbooks and dozens of peer-reviewed papers and patents. His hobbies include Token Engineering and advising governments on AI * blockchain. More info: www.trent.st (@trentmc0)

Samia Melhem is the Global Lead for the Digital Development Community of Practice at the World Bank. Her operational responsibilities include investment operations in digital platforms & services as well as thought leadership on digital development. She has recently contributed to the Digital Development Partnership (DDP) setup and is now leading the DDP’s Digital government analytical work. She has led/contributed to digital government transformational projects in Rwanda, Egypt, Philippines, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire - leveraging disruptive technologies to improve delivery of public services. She is
Nnenna Nwakanma - advocates for open data, open government and the open web across Africa, bringing together local and international stakeholders to advance the open agenda. She works to drive forward the Africa Data Consensus, the Africa Open Data Network, the Africa Open Data Conference and the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms. She represents the Web Foundation at a number of international fora, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. Recently, she pioneered the Foundation’s first gender data project – TechMousso, which brought together the data and tech communities with women’s rights organisations to tackle gender challenges in Côte d’Ivoire. She is a Diplo alumnus, one of the early pioneers of the Africa Data Revolution, a respected voice in the UN’s Internet Governance Forum, a pioneer and continued advisor on internet governance in Africa, and Faculty at the Schools of Internet Governance. She has over 15 years of experience working with the United Nations Systems in human rights, information society, gender, data digital equality and sustainable development. Her career has allowed her to work closely with many civil society organisations, the African Development Bank, the Digital Solidarity Fund and has seen her involved in many phases of the UN’s Africa Information Society Initiative. As well as leading a highly regarded consultancy platform, Nnenna has in recent years co-founded The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa and served as a board member of the Open Source Initiative.

Theca Pardo, PhD serves as director of the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) at the University at Albany which works closely with multi-sector and multi-disciplinary teams from the U.S. and around the world to carry out applied research and problem-solving projects focused on the intersections of policy, management, and technology in the governmental context. CTG has produced groundbreaking work in the fields of information and knowledge sharing, open government and open data, e-government, social media policy, and mobile technologies and human services delivery. She serves as Open New York adviser to New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and was recently appointed expert advisor to the Open Data 500 Project. She is president of the Digital Government Society, a global multi-disciplinary organization of scholars and practitioners interested in the development and impacts of digital government. She serves on a number of national and international advisory and editorial boards, including the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV) conference series Advisory Committee, Government Information Quarterly, the U.S. Government Accountability Office Executive Council on Information, Management, and Technology, and the Data Center for Applied Research in Social Sciences at Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. She is also a senior adviser to the Informatization Research Institution, State Information Center in China and is a member of the Board of Champions for the New York State Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Girls Collaborative.

Pardo has published over 125 articles, research reports, practice guides, book chapters and case studies and is ranked among the top five scholars in her field in terms of productivity and citations to her published work. She has received numerous awards including best journal and conference paper awards for her published work, the University at Albany’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the Rockefeller College Distinguished Service Award.

Vinícius Carvalho Pinheiro – is the Special Representative to the UN and Director of the International Labor Organization. Before moving to New York, Mr Pinheiro served as senior social protection adviser to the ILO Director General in Geneva since 2009. He was part of the ILO G20 Sherpa Team from 2009 to 2013 and acted as Executive Secretary of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, headed by Ms. Michele Bachelet, which led to the adoption of the ILO recommendation on social protection floors. He was also the Director General Cabinet’s focal point for the preparation of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and its follow up. Mr. Pinheiro is an Economist and holds a
master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Brasília and specializations in Public Administration and Public Policies (National School of Public Administration, Brasília), in Evaluation of Social Programmes and Projects (ILPES-ECLAC, Santiago de Chile); Pensions Schemes (Harvard International Institute for Development, Cambridge) and Leadership in the Public Sector (Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge). He taught in the Economics Department of the University of Brasília (1994 – 1996) and authored various articles about pensions and social protection.

Joachim Post, PhD - is manager of the relations to United Nations System entities and International Development Cooperation cluster at the International Relations Department of the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V.; www.DLR.de). From 2014 to 2017 he has been seconded as a national expert at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and its United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UNSPIDER) Programme at the Bonn office, Germany. There he was responsible for Earth Observation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change and worked in technical advisory, support to developing countries, capacity development and knowledge management. He holds a diploma in environmental sciences from University of Trier (Germany, 2002) and a Ph. D. in natural sciences (Geocology) from University of Potsdam (Germany, 2006) which he obtained while working for the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). He also studied at Utrecht University (Netherlands) and University of Aberdeen (UK). From 2006 to 2014 he has been a research scientist at the Earth Observation Center of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and was responsible for risk assessment research and early warning systems where he worked on developing and implementing tsunami risk assessment and knowledge for early warning in Indonesia (GITEWS project), as a principal investigator in several projects dealing with applied risk analysis research, e.g. CLIMB (www.climb-fp7.eu) in Europe, Flood Risk map study Singapore, SASSCAL (www.sasscal.org) and WASCAL (www.wascal.org) projects in Africa on climate change and sustainable land management, Multi-Risk Information System in Chile project and at the DLR Center for Satellite Based Crisis Information ZKI (www.zki.dlr.de) as rapid mapping coordinator. Internationally he strongly cooperates with Tohoku University (Japan) and the National University of Singapore. He is an expert in environmental and natural hazards risk and vulnerability assessments, early warning, climate impact research, earth observation and simulation modelling. cooperation.

Mila Romanoff - is a Legal and Privacy Specialist at the UN Global Pulse, a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General. She manages the data privacy, data partnerships and risk management programme, including across its labs in Jakarta and Kampala. She was the lead drafter of the first UN wide framework for the UN Development Group on Data Privacy, Ethics and Protection on Big Data for Achievement of the SDGs. She currently coordinates the Global Pulse Data Privacy Advisory Group and led the establishment of the UN Privacy Policy Group, the UN system wide forum on data privacy and data protection matters. Previously, she advised on legal matters at two permanent country missions to the United Nations and worked in the private sector as a commercial contracting and litigation attorney in New York and Ukraine. She started her career at the Department of Justice in Odessa, Ukraine, and the Kiev District Court in Odessa, Ukraine. She is an active member of several legal and privacy associations as well as advisory boards. She represents Global Pulse on a number of UN and non-UN working groups on data privacy, including UN Global Working Group on Big Data and Official Statistics’ task team on data access and privacy, UN Privacy Policy Group, the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data.

Theo Veltman is an Innovation Rainmaker in Amsterdam. As such, he is responsible for several pilot projects on the co-creation of a safe and clean-living environment in the city through the co-creation of inhabitants and ‘police’. He is also responsible for a project to co-create values for the digital city and implement those as “unwritten” and “written” rules. Another project he is involved in aims to co-create a safe, accessible digital city, starting at three places to see how it can be done, and to develop (digital) safety measures based on day-to-day life. He has been CIO and CTO in various companies. His experience ranges from being responsible (CEO independent governmental body, CEO education) to executive responsibility (program manager merger six organisations, innovation of services) and consultancy (strategy, trouble shooting). He has worked mainly in the government sector but had also spent about 7-10 years in the private sector (insurance, bank, technology). Internationally he had worked in short projects in i.e. Australia, New Zealand, Spain. His practical and creative approach is based on this experience and a knowledge base including technology (BSc), business administration (BBa), business management (MA).
LIST OF EXPERTS - Role of public institutions on the transformative impact of new technologies, 6-7 December 2018, New York

Markus Woltran is a Programme Officer in the Office of the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He supports the Director of the Office in a broad variety of tasks and engages in diverse strategic and policy relevant areas such as #space4SDGs, interagency affairs, UNOOSA strategic directions and operational priorities (SDOP) as well as planning and evaluation efforts. Additionally, he supports key activities and leads the organisation of international conferences, workshops, expert meetings and symposia. Markus is also in charge of the office’s engagement on the implementation of a dedicated ‘Space for Women’ – Project. He also supports different UNOOSAs outreach and awareness raising activities as well as contributes to papers and other written products and publications. Markus has an experience as Associate Programme Officer in the UNOOSA dedicated programme on Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) as well as in the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) and in the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Markus holds a master’s Degree in political science.

Yoshiyuki Yamamoto – has been Special Advisor for UN Engagement and Blockchain Technology at UNOPS since 2016. In the past two years he formed a UN blockchain group, launched an RFI for Blockchain-based International Assistance, organized a series of webinar on Blockchain for over 500 UN colleagues, co-produced a book “Legal Aspects of Blockchain” with the Dutch Government, launched a Challenge in Unite Ideas for Blockchain-based identity solution for human trafficking, entered into partnership with MasterCard, IOTA and ConsenSys, and formed an extensive network with over 200 private tech companies. The current work includes co-development with UN Environment of decentralized management systems of renewable energy, a proof of concept of unified ID system based on directed acyclic graph with IOTA and designing a peer-to-peer assistance system with several companies. He has over 25 years of experience in the UN system, having spent his first 15 years working for UNHCR, IOM, UN RC/HC Office, DPKO in post conflict areas such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan and Iraq with a year break as an Associate Professor for a graduate school of law in Japan in 2003-04. In 2007 he joined UNOPS HQ in Copenhagen, and then UNOPS NY in 2009 where he adopted various digital solutions as the Director for UNOPS Peace and Security Centre managing PKO and humanitarian projects in 23 countries. He attended Osaka University, University of Southern California and Oxford University and holds B.A., LL. B and LL.M. His major is quantitative analysis of law. He published a book titled “Kabul Note” in 2001, which was ranked in top 10 for seven weeks at Amazon.co.jp. His article related to blockchain: Could bitcoin technology revolutionize aid distribution? Yoshiyuki Yamamoto, LinkedIn, Nov 30, 2017.

Lei Zheng, PhD - is an Associate Professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs, and the Director of the Lab for Digital and Mobile Governance at Fudan University, Shanghai, China. He holds a PhD in Public Administration and Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, State University of New York. His research interests include digital governance, open government data, cross-boundary information sharing, mobile public services, and government use of social media. He serves as a member of the Editorial Board of Government Information Quarterly, a member of the E-government Advisory Board of China Information Society, and a board member of the Institute of Digital China, State Information Center of China.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Elliot Harris - is Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist at UNDESA. He brings over 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter–agency coordination processes. He has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and its application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for resilient and sustained economic development. His work in the field of economics also focuses on the macroeconomic linkages with global social and environmental policies. Prior to this position, he served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 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. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and political science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany.
Stefan Schweinfest is Director of the Statistics Division since July 2014 and concurrently Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government. He started his career with the Statistics Division in 1989 in national accounting. He subsequently worked in various other areas, such as statistical capacity building programmes, and indicator frameworks. For many years, he was also responsible for external relationships of the Division, both with member countries as well as with international partner organizations. He has been the substantive secretary of two intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) since 2002, and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) since 2011. As the Director of the Statistics Division, he supported the work of Statistical Commission and its Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to develop the global indicator framework to monitor progress towards the SDGs, which was adopted by UNSC at its 48th session in March 2017 and subsequently by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. Under his leadership, the Division works on implementing this framework and ensuring countries receive capacity building support to monitor progress towards the SDGs. He studied Mathematical Economics at the Universities of Wuerzburg and Bonn in Germany. He holds a Diplome D’Etudes Approfondies (Masters equivalent) from the University of Paris in these fields. He also conducted postgraduate research at the London School of Economics.

Vincenzo Aquaro - is currently the Chief of the Digital Government Branch which publishes the UN E-Government Survey, a UNDESA flagship publication that offers a snapshot of trends in the development of e-government in countries across the globe. In the last 23 years, he has been engaged at national and international level in issues related to ICT in public policy and governance. He is also in charge of the Data Assessment and Data Management of the UN E-Government Survey. Before joining the United Nations, he worked for 10 years as President and CEO of Formit Servizi SpA, a leading Italian advisory company in the field of egovernance. He also served as Member of the Scientific Committee of the NGO Formit Foundation and as President and CEO of CARMA Scientific Research Consortium, a Public and Private Partnership spin-off on ICT products and e-services in Agricultural and Agro-industrial fields, co-financed by European Commission for innovative and advanced capacity-building research program in south of Italy. In collaboration with the University of Rome 3 he also established the first Master on eGovernment for PA and served for two editions as Member of the Master Executive Board. Prior to that, he worked at EIS SpA (a ICT system integration company now incorporated into Telecom Italia Group) as software analyst and developer, project manager and senior marketing manager. He holds a Master’s Degree (Laurea Magistrale) in Electronic Engineering from the University of Bari, Italy.

Rashid Hamid, PhD - Hamid Rashid is the Chief, Development Research Branch. He currently leads the publication of the World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) – a UNDESA flagship publication that addresses various sustainable development related issues and challenges. He had over twenty years of experience, working for the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and the World Bank in Dhaka, Washington D.C. and New York. Earlier, he served as Senior Adviser in UNDP’s Bureau for Development Policy and led a multi-sectoral programme in the UNDP headquarters in New York, addressing issues of property, labour and entrepreneurial rights of the poor. During 2006-2008, he served as the Director General for United Nations and Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh. He was responsible for conceptualizing, coordinating and representing Bangladesh’s positions on various economic issues – special and differential market access for the least developed countries, international migration and financing for development - at the UN and other multilateral forums. He earned his Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Columbia University in New York, working under his advisor and mentor, Professor Joseph Stiglitz - the winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics. He obtained his MPhil in Economic and MPA from Columbia University and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas.

Adriana Alberti, Phd - is Chief of the Capacity Development Unit DPIDG. She has worked for over twenty-five years on governance and public administration issues, including at the United Nations, academia and the non-for-profit sector. She has coordinated for several years the United Public Service Forum and Awards Programme. She was Chief Technical Advisor of the Programme for Innovation in Governance in the Mediterranean Region and devised capacity development strategies in this area. She was a founding member of the Network of Innovators in Governance in the Mediterranean region -Middle East, North Africa, and Western Balkans-, and through forums, policy dialogue and analytical work, she has promoted a common understanding of governance issues. She holds a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and an Executive Education Certificate on Innovations in Governance from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government. Before joining the United Nations, she worked...
at the Center for Judicial Studies of the University of Bologna and was Professor of Comparative Politics and European Union at Syracuse University and Dickinson College in Italy. She has led the analytical part of the 2016 UN E-Government Survey and has prepared chapters for the 2016 and 2014 UN E-Government Survey. She has edited and contributed to a number of books and prepared papers. Ms. Alberti has been awarded a number of fellowships, including from the Italian National Research Council (CNR), from the European University Institute, from Spain for the Salvador de Madariaga Research Grant, and a fellowship from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**Wai Min Kwok** - Joining the UN Secretariat through a competitive examination in 2008, Wai Min Kwok has since been entrusted with a dynamic portfolio of roles and responsibilities in all functional units of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government. He was the one of the lead authors for selected editions of the UN E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report. His areas of expertise span a broad range in sustainable development, public policy and administration, digital government, Internet governance, and information communication technologies for development. In 2011-2013, he was concurrently assigned as the Secretary of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, and led the successful convening of the 10th, 11th and 12th Sessions of CEPA as well asintersessional activities. From 1997, prior to joining the UN, he embarked on unmarked territories in the private sector including as a technopreneur. He has a postgraduate master’s in public administration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and an honours degree in electrical engineering at the National University of Singapore. He was formerly a Lee Ka-Shing graduate scholar and Mobil Oil scholar.

**Elida Reci** joined UNDESA in 2005 as Governance and Public Administration Officer. Since then she has been working on sustainable development issues with focus on utilization of technology for enhanced efficiency, transparency and participation. She has served for over 10 years as regional e-government coordinator for Africa and Middle East. Prior to joining UNDESA, she had 18 years of extensive experience in transition economies. She was a senior economic advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania, a former director at the Albanian Ministry of Finance and founder of Albanian Public-Private Finance Institute. She has been advising and working closely with parliaments, governments, civil society and business community in a wide range of issues, including transparency, accountability and participation in public administration. She was part of Stability Pact Initiative for Western Balkans (1999-2005) with Economic Table II as regional expert, where she worked with several international organizations such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development Program, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, European Union, and others. She is a graduate of Brandeis and Harvard University, USA and a fellow of US-Ron Brown Fellowship. She has also taught international trade and development economics at Tirana University. She has been presenting papers and studies at several international, regional and national conferences on development issues.

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