

**Mr. Marc Bichler** is the Director for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. In this capacity, he is actively involved in the conception and implementation of Luxembourg's policy in the field of development cooperation in general and in the field of microfinance in particular. As a career diplomat, Mr. Bichler served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Desk Officer for European International Market Affairs, as Deputy Director for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action and as Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York. In March 2008, he was accredited as Luxembourg's non-resident Ambassador to Burkina Faso and is currently chairing the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors. He is a trained lawyer with a Masters degree from the Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

**Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti** is the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations. Prior to this post, she held several posts at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Deputy Permanent Secretary, Head of the Division of South America, Director-General of the Department of Human Rights and Social Affairs and Director-General of the Department of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was responsible for the implementation of President Lula's "Action Against Hunger and Poverty" initiative. She was also Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development and led the Brazilian Delegation during the preparation of the International Conference on Financing for Development. Ms. Viotti is a member of the ECOSOC *Ad hoc* Group on Guinea Bissau. She received a Bachelors degree in Economics and concluded a post-graduation course in the same subject at the University of Brasília.

**Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy** is currently Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovation in Financing for Development and Chair of the Executive Board of the International Drug Purchase Facility (IDPF) UNITAID, hosted by the World Health Organization. Prior to this post, Mr. Douste-Blazy held a number of important positions inside the French Government, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Culture and twice Minister for Health. During his term as the leader of French diplomacy, he strongly advocated for the creation of UNITAID and the implementation in France of a solidarity levy on air tickets aimed at supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the health sector. Prior to his political career, he worked as a cardiologist and was Professor of Medicine.

**Ms. Marisol Argueta de Barillas** is Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador. From 2004 to January 2008, she was Senior Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director-General of Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also served as Vice-President of the Organization of American States' National Authorities Meeting for the Development of Women and headed various Salvadoran official delegations in several international meetings. Her prior diplomatic experience includes positions as Minister Counselor at the Embassy of El Salvador in Washington DC and as Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York. Ms. Argueta de Barillas received post-graduate degrees in Diplomacy from the University of Oxford, England and in International Humanitarian Law from NYU, USA. She has also pursued specialized studies in international affairs, human rights, negotiations, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and development.

**Mr. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia** is Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. Previously, he served as Ambassador of Spain to Poland, Mexico and Guatemala, as Special Ambassador for the Coordination of the Relations with countries bordering the European Union and as Ambassador at large for peacekeeping operations. He was also Director-General of Foreign Policy with Latin America and Deputy Director-General for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Countries. He worked in the diplomatic missions to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and in Portugal and in the Spanish Embassy in Colombia. Mr. de Laiglesia holds a degree in law.

**Ms. Lakshmi Puri** is Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Director of UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities (DITC). From 1999 to 2002, she was Ambassador of India to Hungary and was concurrently accredited to Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also served as Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in Geneva. Ms. Puri has more than 28 years experience in the Indian Foreign Service in policy-making and administration and in bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy, with the focus on trade, development and economic cooperation. Having served for several years as Joint Secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, where she was in charge of the Economic and Multilateral Economic Relations Divisions, she has first-hand knowledge of national trade policy formulation and of the development implications of multilateral trade negotiations.

**Mr. Håkon Arald Gulbrandsen** is State Secretary for International Development in the Government of Norway. Prior to this post, he was First Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria and Adviser in the Section for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1999 to 2002, he served as Second Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in Damascus and as Higher Executive Officer and Foreign Service Trainee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Gulbrandsen has held a number of political positions, such as member of Oslo Socialist Left Party Executive Committee, member of the Socialist Left Party International Committee and Deputy Member of the Socialist Left Party Central Executive Committee. He holds a law degree from the University of Tromsø.

**Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra** is Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser on Africa at the United Nations Secretariat. Prior to this appointment, he served as Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations and Ambassador to Algeria. He had also served as First Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations and as Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. From 1985 to 1987, he was Legislative Adviser in the Office of the Prime Minister. Before that appointment, he rose from being an official in the Division of Legal Affairs to being the head of the

Brussels, he went on to become, in 1976, the Chief Economist of the Spanish trade union UGT. From 1979 to 2004, he served as a Member of the Spanish Parliament, becoming Minister of Employment and Social Security in 1982 and Minister of Public Administration in 1986. From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Almunia led the Parliamentary Party and, from 1997 to 2000, the Spanish Socialist Party. He graduated in Law and Economics from the University of Deusto (Bilbao) and completed postgraduate studies at L'École Pratique des Hautes Études de Paris.

**Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram** is Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Prior to this post, he was visiting senior research fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore and founding chair of International Development Economics Associates. He has taught at the Science University of Malaysia, Harvard University, Yale University, National University of Malaysia, University of Malaya and Cornell University. In 2007, he received the Wassily Leontief Prize for “Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought” from Tufts University. Mr. Jomo received his BA in Economics from Yale University. He received MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

**Mr. Christopher Towe** is presently Deputy Director of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department of the IMF. During his twenty-year career at the IMF, he has held a wide variety of positions, including Leader of the Fund teams on the United States, Canada, India and Hong Kong SAR, China and Economist on the Pakistan and Malawi teams. Prior to joining the IMF, he worked for three years as an economist with the Bank of Canada, focusing on interbank markets. Mr. Towe received his BA (First Class Honors) in Economics from Queen’s University, Canada, and his PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario. He has published on a broad range of topics related to macroeconomic policy.

**Mr. Olav Kjørven** is Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). From 2005-2007, he led UNDP’s Environment and Energy Group, promoting sound environmental management and access to energy for poverty reduction and tapping into new financial mechanisms for development such as carbon finance. From 2001 to 2005, he served in the Government of Norway as State Secretary for International Development. He also held the post of Political Adviser to the Minister of International Development and Human Rights. Previously, he worked as Director of International Development at the Centre for Economic Analysis in Oslo and as an Environmental Specialist at the World Bank. Mr. Kjørven holds MA in International Affairs from George Washington University.

**Mr. Tariq Banuri** is Senior Fellow and Director of the Future Sustainability Program at the Stockholm Environment Institute. Prior to this post, he was Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan. He also served on national and international forums for policy, advocacy and research, including as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the World Future Council and chair of the Board of Governors of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and as a Research Fellow at the World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). In addition, he was Coordinating Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Prior to his research posts, Mr. Banuri worked for the Civil Service of Pakistan. He holds a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

**Mr. Lucio Monari** is Manager of the Energy Anchor in the Sustainable Development Vice-Presidency at the World Bank. Before this position, he worked in the energy sector in Latin America and in South Asia on several projects related to renewable energy development, sector reforms and private sector participation, and provided policy advice on energy development to various governments in these regions. He joined the World Bank in 1992, after two years working in the UNDP as Economist, and after six

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