



REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR THE CARIBBEAN

Facilitating Investment in SDG Projects: Spotlight on Small Island Developing States

Saint Kitts and Nevis, 26–28 November 2019



Speaker Biographical Notes

(In sessions order)



Mr. Paul Wessendorp is Chief of the Investment Promotion Section at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He is responsible for a global technical assistance programme aimed at strengthening national capacities to promote and facilitate foreign investment for sustainable development. He has over 20 years of experience assisting more than 40 countries through advice and training on investment policies and promotion, including helping found the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and initiating UNCTAD's programmes on good governance and the promotion of green investment. He also led teams that organized UNCTAD's World Investment Forums in Ghana, China, Qatar, Switzerland, and Kenya.

Mr. Wessendorp is author and co-author of numerous publications on investment related issues. Before joining UNCTAD, he worked in the area of entrepreneurship and economic development with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) in New York, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nairobi, and the Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) in The Hague. He is an economic geographer and development planner and has an MSc from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.



Ms. Tishka Francis is Head of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sub-Programme in the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), where she works in support of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in SIDS.

Previously, Ms. Francis served in the Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations in New York, as Deputy Permanent Representative, 2003-2018, covering a range of issues and fora from Climate Change to the United Nations Security Council. She has held a number of high-profile positions, playing a leading role in advancing the cause of SIDS at the United Nations and beyond.



Ms. Natalia Guerra is an Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD, where she coordinates capacity-building and technical cooperation programmes based on UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD), the Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation, and the promotion of investment in SDG sectors. Ms. Guerra has 25 years of experience in foreign direct investment and development, including at the Venezuelan National Council for Investment Promotion and UNCTAD. Ms. Guerra also serves as the focal point on gender mainstreaming in UNCTAD's Division of Investment and Enterprise.

Ms. Guerra graduated in economics from the Central University of Venezuela and at Edinburgh Napier University, where she obtained a master's degree in investment promotion and economic development.



Mr. Ian Richards is an economist at UNCTAD in Geneva, in charge of the investment guides programme and specializing in investment facilitation for sustainable development. Prior to that he worked on investment policies. He has worked with countries and territories in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

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Mr. Emmanuel Hess is an economist with more than 20 years of leadership in top management and consulting for entities related to large international companies and government. Extensive experience in business development and strategic alliances, as well as in negotiating and executing multidisciplinary team projects, with a sense of opportunity for identifying and exploiting organizational potential, and availability for challenges involving relationships, perseverance and dynamism.



Mr. Arno Boersma is the founding partner of Island Impact, a social enterprise that aims to bring positive impact to small islands through initiatives in sustainable development. He is the former Director of UNDP's Center of Excellence for Small Island Developing Countries. Mr. Boersma has been an entrepreneur as well as worked for multinational firms, the World Bank Group, and the UN. He recently moved from Aruba to Washington, DC where he subsequently launched the Network of Island Professionals.



Mr. Vassel Stewart is the Founder, CEO of Caribbean Agribusiness Development Company. Mr. Stewart is well known as an industry pioneer in the Caribbean agribusiness world. He has also served as chair in the Caribbean Agribusiness Association. Mr. Stewart holds an MBA and Bsc. Agriculture, EMBA in International Marketing and Entrepreneurship, post graduate diploma in Food Technology and a certificate in Quality Management.

He is an Agri-business & International Marketing Development Specialist, with over 30 years of diversified and practical experience in agri-business value-chain development in the Caribbean, gained through working with national, regional and international public and private sector organizations in various positions including C.E.O, Regional Manager, Regional Co-ordinator, Adviser, Consultant, Investor and Director.



Ms. Racquel Moses is the Chief Executive Officer at the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator. Before coming to fill the role of the Accelerator's CEO, Moses was country manager and regional public-sector director for Microsoft in Port of Spain, Trinidad, where she engaged with regional ministers and developed a digital transformation strategy for CARICOM countries. Previously, she served as president of InvestTT, Trinidad and Tobago's national investment promotion agency, where she implemented innovative methodologies resulting in multimillion dollars' worth of growth in investments and exponential job growth from the agency. She led the agency to award-winning performance and was recognized by UNCTAD for excellence in investment promotion in sustainable development. She holds a master's degree in management of information technology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, and is an avid marathon runner.



Ms. Maria Camila assumed the position of Executive Director of the Free Trade Zone Association in October 2014, where she has a responsibility to promote and defend the Free Trade Zones regime in 24 Latin-American countries through integrations, research and cooperation with the public and private sectors. Ms. Moreno previously worked as an international business consultant at a leading trade consultant firm in Colombia, where she specialized in market research and the evaluation on the impact of Free Trade Agreements in Latin American economies. She has been a keynote speaker in China, Macedonia, Colombia, Brasil, Peru, Bolivia and Switzerland. She holds a master's degree in international law and Economics from the World Trade Institute in Bern.

Speaker Biographical Notes *(In sessions order)*



Ms. Kelli-Dawn Hamilton is a Manager Policy and Business Advocacy at the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO). She is a certified Services Go Global Trainer, one of a handful of persons certified across the Caribbean region. She has helped entrepreneurs across the region move from conceptualization to implementation in relation to brand building and expanding their global footprint.

The former Director of Investor Relations at the Jamaica Special Economic Zone Authority, Ms. Hamilton has almost a decade of experience in international trade and development. She is also a motivational speaker with a keen interest in the development of a holistic person who is able to maximize their potential not just financially, but through self-actualization as well.



Ms. Shawna Lake is a lawyer at Law Officer of Shawna Lake. She is an attorney-at-law and notary public and is also a certified anti-money laundering specialist (CAMS). Ms. Lake studied law at the University of the West Indies. She obtained her Legal Education Certificate at the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica in 1996 and in 2003 obtained a Master of Business Administration with a specialty in Finance from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. Ms. Lake worked as Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers from 1996 to 2001 and then served as the Director of Marketing and Development of Financial Services in St. Kitts from 2001–2007. She worked closely with USAID to draft legislation and to establish the St. Kitts Investment Promotion Agency and was the first CEO of that agency in St. Kitts when it was established in 2007. She remained in that role until 2010 when she moved into the private sector and established her own law practice.

She was appointed the honorary consul of France to St. Kitts and Nevis in 2012 and has represented the French government over the last 7 years. She was awarded the Order of Merit by the French President in September of 2018 for her outstanding contribution to the relations between France and the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.



Dr. Denise Chevannes-Vogel is a Jamaican gender and women's empowerment specialist and programme leader. She is currently the National Private Sector Specialist on a regional project in Latin America and the Caribbean, funded by UN Women in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and European Commission, and entitled: "Win-Win: Gender Equality Means Good Business". The programme will ultimately contribute to the achievement of gender equality through enabling women's labour force participation, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society.

Dr. Chevannes-Vogel has a significant body of experience in sustainable development programme and policy design, planning, implementation, and management in Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean gained from her work in international, regional, and national development organisations including the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Women, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Caribbean HIV and AIDS Alliance and the National Family Planning Board in Jamaica.



Mr. Les Khan, PMP, MSOC, BBA, is CEO of the St. Kitts and Nevis Citizenship Investment Unit. Originally from Trinidad, he studied in Australia and the US and is a certified Project Management Professional. With over 20 years' experience within large financial and risk management organizations, Mr. Khan was appointed to revamp the Citizenship by Investment Unit in St. Kitts and Nevis. Prior to this, he has held many senior positions, e.g. Senior Director, Program Management at IPSA International; Senior Vice President and Director of Operations for Northern Operating Services; Vice President and Head of Operations for Northern Trust Company; and the Head of Global Business/Technology Services for National Australia Bank.



Mr. Ellis Hazel is the CEO of Whitegate Development Corporation. Mr. Hazel holds a master's degree in urban planning and Development from the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and an Undergraduate Degree in Geography from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. He served as Director of Physical Planning and Environment in the Ministry of Sustainable Development from 2005 to 2007 and as Chief Physical Planner from 2001–2005. He served as Executive Secretary to the Development Control and Planning Board from 2002–2007.

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Ms. Suzanne Shaw is the Co-Founder and CEO of The Leap Co. She has 15 years' international experience in sustainable energy and transport, CO2 mitigation and technology evaluation. Ms. Shaw is specialized in economic and financial analysis of energy and transport investments, industry analysis, business case development, and environmental valuation. She has analyzed the commercial viability and investment climate for total US\$ 1 billion in sustainable energy and climate resilient investments, for Caribbean governments and financing institutions. Ms. Shaw was also an advisor in the conceptualization of the Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator, a new organization established to drive resiliency in the Caribbean.

Prior to returning to the Caribbean in 2015, Ms. Shaw worked for various European institutions, advising on low-carbon energy strategies and incentives for sustainable energy development.

Through her work at the European Commission, and with the Caribbean Policy Research Institute in Jamaica, she has analyzed, and raised policy-maker awareness of, the economic value of environmental and climate change impacts of projects.



Ms. Diana Rosert is Economic Affairs Officer in UNCTAD's Section on International Investment Agreements. She holds a Master of Arts in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick and a Postgraduate Certificate in International Business Law from the University of London. She has eight years of experience working on economic, legal and policy matters related to international investment treaties and investor-State arbitration, with a particular focus on reform tools and sustainable development.



Dr. Chantal Ononaiwu is the Trade Policy and Legal Specialist at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat's Office of Trade Negotiations, where she develops and provides advice on proposals for CARICOM's external trade negotiations and advises on other matters pertaining to international trade and investment.

Dr. Ononaiwu is a lecturer in International Trade and Investment Law on the MSc in International Trade Policy at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. Prior to joining the CARICOM Secretariat, she was the Director, Value Proposition Development at Invest Barbados.

Dr. Ononaiwu is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford, an LLM from the University of Cambridge and an LLB from the University of the West Indies. She is admitted to practice law in Jamaica and Barbados.



Ms. Sanya K.N. Alleyne is a technical trade adviser at GIZ based in Barbados. Ms. Alleyne is an experienced International Lawyer with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. Skilled in Negotiation, International Law, Policy Analysis, Political Science, and Government. Strong operations professional with a master's degree focused in Legislative Drafting from The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus.