







UNIDO 9th Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

“The Next Decade of Action: Accelerating ISID in LDCs”



25 – 26 November 2021, Vienna International Center and Interprefy

CO-ORGANIZERS		
<p>Mr. LI Yong</p> <p>Director General United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</p>		<p>LI Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has had an extensive career as a senior economic and financial policy-maker. As Vice-Minister of Finance of the People’s Republic of China and member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank for a decade, Mr. Li was involved in setting and harmonizing fiscal, monetary and industrial policies, and in supporting sound economic growth in China.</p> <p>He pushed forward financial sector reform, and prompted major financial institutions to establish corporate governance, deal with toxic assets and strengthen risk management. Mr. Li gave great importance to fiscal and financial measures in favor of agricultural development and SMEs, the cornerstones for creating economic opportunities, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality.</p> <p>He played a key role in China’s cooperation with multilateral development organizations, such as the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank.</p>
<p>Mr. Courtenay Rattray</p> <p>Under-Secretary- General and UN-OHRLLS High Representative</p>		<p>Mr. Rattray took office as High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States in July 2021.</p> <p>As a thought leader in development finance, Mr. Rattray has decades of experience serving countries in special situations, particularly SIDS. Prior to joining OHRLLS, Mr. Rattray served in a wide variety of diplomatic positions, including Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador of Jamaica to China (2008-2013), Director of the Bilateral Relations Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also co-chaired the Friends of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Financing, Children and SDGs Group and the Friends of Decent Work Group.</p> <p>Mr. Rattray holds a Master of Arts degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in the United States, a Master of Arts in International Business from the London South Bank University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College in the United States.</p>





<p>Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti</p> <p>OACPS Secretary-General</p>		<p>Mr. Chikoti currently serves as Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS).</p> <p>In his long experience, he chaired several high-level public debates, including the public debate in the United Nations Security Council on "Peacekeeping and international security: prevention and conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region," the body responsible for politics, defense and security of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and participated in all meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and Executive Council (Council of Ministers) and African Union (AU) summits, since 1993. During his tenure as Deputy Minister and as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Angola was twice elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (2003-2004; 2015-2016).</p> <p>Mr. Chikoti is fluent in Portuguese, French, and English and has a working knowledge of Spanish and Swahili. His hobbies include soccer, reading, art and culture.</p>
<p>Mr. Escipi3n J. Oliveira Gomez</p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General; Department of Structural Economic Transformation and Trade</p> <p>Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)</p>		<p>Mr. Oliveira Gomez assumed the position of Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Structural Economic Transformation and Trade of the OACPS on July 7th, 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Oliveira Gomez has 30 years of experience in drafting, managing, supervising, and evaluating multi-donor programs and projects for the creation and strengthening of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and Business Support Organisations in the six OACPS regions at national, regional and all-ACP levels.</p> <p>Mr. Oliveira Gomez holds Master's degree in Business Administration with a major in Finance (1994) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business (1992) from "Universit3 catholique de Louvain" (UCL) (Belgium); a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the "Instituto Tecnol3gico de Santo Domingo" Dominican Republic (1990); and an internship in the European Commission's General Directorate for Development Cooperation DGVIII (1995).</p>






<p>Mr. Ciyong Zou</p> <p>Managing Director Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Coordination Director of Department of Regional and Field Coordination United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</p>		<p>Mr. Zou has nearly 20 years of professional experience in the Ministry of Finance of China, served in various senior, managerial positions, including as Deputy Director General of the International Department in the Ministry of Finance. He worked as Senior Advisor in 2009-2010, as Alternate to Chinese Executive Director at the World Bank in 2010-2011 and as Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point for China in 2008-2009.</p> <p>Mr. Zou joined UNIDO in October 2013, and was appointed Director of the newly created Department of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Integration in 2018. In June 2020, he was appointed Managing Director of the Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Coordination and Director of the Department of Regional and Field Coordination.</p> <p>Mr. Zou holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Graduate School of Research Institute for Fiscal Science of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Beijing, China and a Master’s degrees in Public Policy and Management from Manchester University in the UK, and in Political Science from the Graduate School of Peking University, Beijing, China.</p>
<p>Ms. Susanna Wolf</p> <p>Senior Programme Officer, Office of the High Representative; UN-OHRLLS</p>		<p>Ms. Wolf has worked as Senior Programme Officer at OHRLLS since June 2009 and is heading the LDC Unit of the Office. She has lead the preparations of several publications including the Flagship Report series: The State of the LDCs. In her work she focuses on issues of structural transformation, financing for sustainable development and graduation from the LDC category.</p> <p>Before joining OHRLLS, Ms. Wolf was Economic Affairs Officer at the Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia for five years, contributing to several flagship publications. From February 2003 until June 2004 she was Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the University of Ghana, Legon, where she did research on private sector development. She has also done research at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms University Bonn for more than 5 years.</p> <p>Ms. Wolf published several articles on aid, trade, private investment and public service delivery. She received her doctorate in economics from the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, Germany.</p>







PANELLISTS		
<p>Ms. Preeti Sinha</p> <p>Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)</p>		<p>Ms. Sinha is a global investment and development banker with a 30-year track record of raising and managing institutional public and private development capital. She was CEO and President of FFD Financing for Development LLC, a Geneva-based development finance specialist focused on resource mobilization, donor relations, innovative capital markets, partnerships, strategy and business development, and impact investment advisory to finance the United Nations SDGs. Ms. Sinha has also served as a consultant to the UN, international organizations, and the private sector to mobilize public and private finance for development. In addition, Preeti held advocacy positions at the YES Global Institute, a private sector think tank on socio-economic development, and the African Development Bank.</p> <p>Ms. Sinha is a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School of Government Executive Education in public financial management. She holds a Masters in Global Leadership from the World Economic Forum and a Masters in Public and Private Management (MPPM)/MBA from the Yale School of Management (SOM). She graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Computer Science.</p>
<p>Mr. Joshua Setipa</p> <p>Managing Director UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries</p>		<p>Mr. Joshua Setipa is Managing Director for the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries in 2018. He came with a wealth of LDC specific knowledge gained from his over 20 years' experience in international trade, economic development and investment strategy at the national, regional and multilateral levels.</p> <p>Prior to current leadership, he led strategic engagements for World Bank in West Africa. In 2015-2017, he served as the Minister of Trade and Industry of Lesotho, spearheading the adoption of national industrial policy. Prior to this he was the CEO for the Lesotho National Development Corporation. In 2005-2011, he was Senior Advisor to the Director-General of the WTO in the Executive Management Team.</p> <p>Mr. Setipa holds an MBA in International Finance at the University of Bradford, a Graduate Diploma in International Trade from the Australian National University and a BA in Public Administration and Political Science from the National University of Lesotho.</p>



<p>Mr. Francesco La Camera</p> <p>Director-General, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</p>		<p>Mr. Francesco La Camera is the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He has more than thirty years of experience in the fields of climate, sustainability, and international cooperation.</p> <p>He formerly served as Director-General of Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, EU and International Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea. In this capacity, he developed cooperation and partnerships agreements with a wide range of countries, particularly developing countries.</p> <p>Mr. La Camera is widely credited with having spearheaded international cooperation on issues related to climate change and the environment. He played a key role in bringing together multilateral organisations to develop joint initiatives designed to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. He has also coordinated a number of national strategies including on sustainable development, green finance and fossil fuel subsidies among other things.</p>
<p>Mr. Ha-Joon Chang</p> <p>Director, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)</p>		<p>Ha-Joon Chang teaches economics at the University of Cambridge. In addition to numerous journal articles and book chapters, he has published 16 authored books (five co-authored) and 11 edited books. His main books include The Political Economy of Industrial Policy, Kicking Away the Ladder, Bad Samaritans, 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism, and Economics: The User's Guide.</p> <p>His writings have been translated and published in 42 languages and 44 countries. Worldwide, his books have sold over 2 million copies. He is the winner of the 2003 Gunnar Myrdal Prize and the 2005 Wassily Leontief Prize.</p>
<p>Mr. Gustavo A. B. da Fonseca</p> <p>Director of Programmes, GEF</p>		<p>Dr. da Fonseca is the Director of Programs at the Global Environment Facility (GEF), where he oversees and manages a technical and administrative team in charge of programming and disbursing over \$1 billion annually in grants and de-risking financing directed to projects and programs in over 150 developing countries dealing with biodiversity conservation; combating land degradation; promoting sustainable forest management and REDD+; climate change mitigation and adaptation; management of transboundary marine and freshwater resources; and phasing out harmful chemicals and mercury.</p> <p>Mr. da Fonseca holds a Master's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Forest Resources and Conservation, and published over 160 publications, articles and books. He received the Oliver Austin Award of the University of Florida for outstanding research in the natural sciences, the Golden Ark Award, an official</p>

		order of the Dutch government, among others, including the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Florida.
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MEMBER STATES		
<p>ZAMBIA - CHAIR</p> <p>Hon. Chipoka Mulenga,</p> <p>MP; Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry</p>		<p>Hon. Mulenga is the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry in the Government of the Republic of Zambia. In this capacity, Hon. Mulenga provides policy guidance to the trade and industry sectors to enhance the contribution of these sectors to sustainable socio-economic growth and development for the benefit of the Zambian people. In addition, Mr. Mulenga is responsible for industrialization policy, investment policy, industry research, business registration, competition and consumer protection, standards and quality assurance, and more. He is also tasked with ensuring that the new government's aspirations (including economic transformation, job creation, and human and social development) are embedded in the Ministry's strategies.</p> <p>Mr. Mulenga has extensive entrepreneurial experience in the mining sector and previously served as technical director of a mining company. The Minister holds a degree in Mining Surveying (Geomancy Engineering) from the Copperbelt University, a Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurship (Business) from the Management College of South Africa and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration in Project Management from the University of Zambia.</p>
<p>BANGLADESH – VICE CHAIR</p> <p>Hon. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun</p> <p>Minister for Industries of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p>		<p>Mr. Humayun has been elected as a Member of Parliament four times and has been the Minister of Industry of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh since January 7, 2019.</p> <p>In the 1960s, he was a veteran member of the Ruchira Group, a power base of the then Chhatra League, which played an important role in the struggle against the Ayub Monem regime. As a student leader, he also played a courageous role in all democratic movements, including the mass uprising against Pakistan's autocrat.</p> <p>Mr. Humayun earned an MSS degree in Political Science and an LLB degree from the University of Dhaka. He is fluent in Bengali, English, Urdu and Hindi. In his spare time, he enjoys playing sports, reading, listening to music, or traveling. He is the father of a son and two daughters.</p>

<p>BANGLADESH</p> <p>H. E. Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith</p> <p>Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Agencies and other International Organizations in Vienna</p>		<p>H. E. Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith has been serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to Austria with concurrent accreditation to Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia and the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Agencies and other International Organizations in Vienna since July 2020.</p> <p>Prior to joining his current position, Ambassador Muhith served as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Denmark with concurrent accreditation to Estonia and Iceland for five years. Ambassador Muhith is a career diplomat of Bangladesh who joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1993. In his distinguished diplomatic career, Ambassador Muhith served in Kuwait, Italy, Qatar, Bangladesh Permanent Mission in UNHQ and USA in various capacities.</p> <p>Ambassador Muhith holds a Master’s degree of Sociology from the University of Dhaka.</p>
<p>MALAWI</p> <p>Dr. Perks M. Ligoya</p> <p>Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations</p>		<p>Dr. Perks M. Ligoya was appointed Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations by the President of the Republic of Malawi in 2018. He is currently the Chair of the Coordinating Office for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).</p> <p>Dr. Perks M. Ligoya has held a variety of high-level positions, including Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi, Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund, or High Commissioner of Malawi to India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Uganda, the Central African Republic, and Somalia. He has also served as a Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat. As part of a World Bank funded project (Financial Management and Transparency Project (FIMTAP)), he was recruited as a consultant to serve as Director of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance.</p> <p>Dr. Perks M. Ligoya holds four university degrees, including a Ph.D. in economic policy management, which he earned at CERDI in Clermont Ferrand, France, in 1998. He is fluent in English and French.</p>



MODERATOR
Ms Folly Bah Thibault

Principal Presenter, Al
Jazeera English



Ms. Thibault joined Al Jazeera in 2010, having previously worked at the French new channel, France24 in Paris and Voice of America in Washington D.C.

As one of the Senior Anchors of Al Jazeera English, Folly has interviewed some of the world’s top leaders, newsmakers, and other influential people for Al Jazeera’s Talk To Al Jazeera programme. In 2010, during the Arab Spring, Folly was part of the team that was there to cover every angle of the story. From the streets of Tunisia, which sparked the revolution, the Cairo’s Tahrir Square, and o the battlefields of Libya, Yemen and of course the continuing crisis in Syria.

Ms. Thibault holds a Bacculaureate in French literature with honours, before heading to the United States to attend Howard University and the American University of Washington D.C.