

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Data-Enabled Development Cooperation: Enhancing Development Impact and Accountability in FfD4

Side event to the Third FfD4 Preparatory Committee Meeting



Sarah McGill Mulbah, Assistant Minister of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Government of Liberia

Sarah McGill Mulbah plays a critical role in overseeing public financial planning and budgetary processes, ensuring that national resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. As Assistant Minister, Sarah leads the development and formulation of the national budget, working in collaboration with government ministries, agencies, and stakeholders. She ensures that budget allocations align with national development priorities and policies while reviewing and consolidating budget proposals across sectors. From 2020 to 2022, she served as Senior Budget Policy Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Budget and Development Planning at MFDP. In this role, she worked closely with the Budget Policy and Coordination Unit and other relevant PFM stakeholders in providing technical assistance during budget formulation and policy coordination. Her commitment to inclusive budgeting led her to serve as National Coordinator for Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting at MFDP. She played a key role in developing a National Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting policy, which serves as a guidance for spending entities on institutionalizing gender equity in the budget process. She also spearheaded the establishment of a National Gender Unit at MFDP, which coordinates gender-responsive budgeting nationwide. Sarah is a proud member of the President's Young Professional Program (PYPP), a prestigious and competitive two-year initiative that recruits and trains young professionals for government roles. She was selected in 2012 and placed at MFDP by the former President Madam Sirleaf of Liberia to serve as Budget Analyst.



His Excellency Mr James Larsen, Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations

HE Mr James Larsen is Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, taking up his posting in New York in July 2023.

Ambassador Larsen is a senior career officer with DFAT. Prior to his appointment, he was Deputy Secretary for Environment, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. He has previously served overseas as Ambassador to Türkiye (2014-2017); Ambassador to Israel (2006-2010);

Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Brussels (2001-2004); and Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Bangkok (1994-1997).

In Canberra, he served as Climate Coordinator/Deputy Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2-11/2021); Chief Legal Officer, DFAT (2017-2020); Principal Adviser, Minister for Foreign Affairs (2012-2013); Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, DFAT (2010-2012); Assistant Secretary and Legal Adviser, Legal Branch, DFAT (2004-2006); and Director, Administration and Domestic Law Section, DFAT (1998-2000). Ambassador Larsen holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, University of Melbourne (1987).



Dr. Tony Swan – Director of Development Economics Section, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Previously a Senior Programme Manager, Immunisation Financing and Sustainability with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and has been a Lecturer at theThe Australian National University where he holds a PhD in Economics.



Mr. Dirk Meyer – Director-General, Multilateral Development Policy; Transformation; Climate, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany

Dirk Meyer has been the Head of division 4 – Multilateral development policy; transformation; climate since September 2023. He studied history and German language and literature at Bielefeld University, Germany, and at University College Cork, Ireland. Following his academic training, he headed the office of the Member of the European Parliament for the constituency of Ostwestfalen-Lippe, Germany. From 1996 to 2018, Mr Meyer worked in various ministries in the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, most recently as a Director-General at the Ministry for Innovation, Science and Research of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. From April 2018 to December 2021, he served as a Director-General at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. From December 2021 to the end of August 2023, he was Head of Department 1 – Global Health, employment; transformation of the economy; digital technologies; food and nutrition security. From September 2023, he has been the Head of division 4 – Multilateral development policy; transformation; climate.

<https://www.insdevforum.org/governance-membership/members/dirk-meyer/>



Genevieve Theodorakis – Economist, World Bank Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard

Genevieve is an economist in the Agriculture and Food Global Department at the World Bank, bringing over 12 years of experience in sustainable agri-food systems, food and nutrition security, and value chain development. At the World Bank, Genevieve leads the development of key focus areas for the Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard and several Preparedness Plans for Food and Nutrition Security. These initiatives aim to enhance decision-making, risk management, crisis preparedness, and inter-sectoral coordination in client countries.

Before joining the World Bank, Genevieve held various roles as an economist within the private sector, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the World Food Programme. In these positions, she worked with foreign investors, global agribusiness companies, and international organizations to facilitate investments in sustainable development, enhance food and nutrition security outcomes, and support crisis preparedness.

Genevieve holds an MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Economics, International Development, and Political Science from McGill University.



Kathrin Frauscher – Deputy Executive Director, Open Contracting Partnership

Kathrin is the Deputy Executive Director and Gavin’s co-pilot in leading the Open Contracting Partnership. Kathrin’s journey as a social entrepreneur started in an unlikely place – the World Bank Institute, the incubation lab of the World Bank. Kathrin worked in countries such as Nigeria, Uganda, and Mongolia on challenging but potentially transformative sectors including mining, construction, and service delivery. Once she realized the potentially massive impact that more accountable procurement processes could have, there was no turning

back. While still at the World Bank, Kathrin and her team there began a user-centered iterative process to create a global organization that was better equipped than the World Bank to work across stakeholder groups in developed and developing countries to open up government contracting. Kathrin now co-manages the Partnership with Gavin where she is still thrilled by the daily opportunity to change how contracting can deliver value for everyone. Before working at the World Bank for ten years, she got a Masters in Advanced International Relations from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and a BA in Economics from the University of Vienna. Kathrin is a 2021 Fellow of World Commerce & Contracting for making significant contributions to the development of commercial and contract management.

<https://www.open-contracting.org/about/team/#kathrin-frauscher>



Yemesrach Assefa Workie, Executive Director, International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

Yemesrach Assefa Workie, was appointed as the first Executive Director of IATI in June 2024. Ms. Workie has extensive experience in international development serving in different capacities within the United Nations and other Multilateral organizations. Before taking up the position of Executive Director of International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), Yemesrach was the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Fiji Multi-Country Office from September 2021– May 2024.

She joined UNDP in 2005, as an Economic Specialist in the Policy Unit of UNDP Ethiopia Country Office. Since then, Yemesrach has held multiple positions in UNDP, including Senior Policy Advisor in Philippines as well as Economics Advisor in UNDP Uganda, Rwanda and The Gambia. Yemesrach’s international career began in the Pan-African institution, when she joined as a Senior Policy Officer in the Strategic and Policy Directorate of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis (2011-2014).

Yemesrach has diverse experience serving in central bank, academia and international research organizations and humanitarian space. Yemesrach was Research Officer in the Central Bank of Ethiopia. She has coordinated WFP funded School Feeding Programme (2003-2006), one of the largest Africa’s Social Protection programmes focusing on children and education. Furthermore, she has a solid Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) experience following her dedicated service to the European Commission (EC) Delegation in Ethiopia as M&E Manager working within the Development Cooperation unit of the Delegation. She lectured in the Ethiopian Civil Service University College for three years and worked in the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), which is one of the most prominent research centers within CGIAR.

Yemesrach is an economist and holds a master’s degree in Economic Policy Management from the Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Yemesrach speaks three languages: Amharic, English, and French.



Joseph Barnes, Chief, Monitoring at UNICEF

Joseph Barnes is the Chief of Monitoring at UNICEF, where he leads the organization’s strategic efforts to enhance results-driven monitoring across its annual programming in 190 countries. Since assuming this role in 2018, he has played a key role in transforming how UNICEF measures impact, ensuring smarter, data-driven decision-making to improve outcomes for children worldwide.

Joseph Barnes served as UNICEF’s representative to the IATI Governing Board from April 2019 to March 2024. With a background in disaster engineering and management, institutional economics, and gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E), Joseph brings over 20 years of hands-on experience in more than 30 countries. His expertise spans international development, strategic evaluation, and transparency in aid effectiveness.

Prior to joining UNICEF, he founded and led ImpactReady, a successful social business specializing in strategic global evaluations across the United Nations system. His work has shaped evaluations for UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, WFP, FAO, and ILO.

