

Trade Facilitation Agreement 5-year Anniversary Event

SPEAKER PROFILES

Welcome remarks



ANABEL GONZÁLEZ
WTO DDG

Ms Anabel González has served as WTO Deputy Director-General since June 2021. She is a renowned global expert on trade, investment, and economic development with a proven managerial track record in international organizations and the public sector. In government, Ms González served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; Special Ambassador and Chief Negotiator; Vice-Minister of Trade and Director-General for Trade Negotiations. She also worked as Director-General of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE). Ms González also served at the World Bank as Senior Director of the Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness, the WTO as Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division and as Senior Consultant with the Inter-American Development Bank. More recently, Ms González has worked as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Peterson Institute for International Economics, where she hosted the virtual series Trade Winds, and as Senior Advisor to the Boston Consulting Group. Ms González obtained her master's degree from Georgetown University Law Center with the highest academic distinction and has published extensively and lectured across the world on trade, investment, and economic development.

Session 1 - Measuring the impact of five years of TFA implementation



ERIK SOLBERG
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Norway to the World Trade Organization

Being a genuine resilient supply and value chain “ambassador”, Erik combines his background as a lawyer and former position as Director for security and emergency preparedness and Crises manager in the Norwegian foreign service with his knowledge and curiosity about global cross border trade. He is a strong believer of the importance of Trade facilitation for all stakeholders, consumers, producers, service providers and authorities.

Taking care of Goods, Trade facilitation, Intellectual property, Trade and Health plus Electronic commerce and Subsidies at the Norwegian mission to the WTO for more than three years makes him well placed to try to put all the different pieces of the puzzle together.

Erik is 59, born in Brussels and has a master's degree in European Market Law from the University of Oslo. He has been working in the Norwegian foreign service since 1992, been posted to Tallinn, Estonia and worked both as Secretary General for the Norwegian sailing federation and been head of department in the Norwegian Government Security and Service Organisation.

He is a passionate yachtsman, generous blood donor, impatient chess player and a curious photographer. He is cohabitant with a medical doctor and is the proud father for four children.

You will find more about Erik here: [linkedin.com/in/erik-ph-g-solberg-9333891](https://www.linkedin.com/in/erik-ph-g-solberg-9333891)

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**SILVIA SORESCU**

Policy Analyst, Project lead Trade facilitation Emerging Policy Issues Division Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Silvia Sorescu is a Policy Analyst in the Emerging Policy Issues Division of the OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate, which she joined in 2010. Silvia is currently the Project lead for the Directorate's trade facilitation work, which includes the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators covering over 160 economies. She is also working on developing the Directorate's work stream linking digital trade and trade facilitation. In the context of the trade facilitation work, Silvia has been a core part of the team analysing vaccines and other medical goods supply chains. Silvia has as well in-depth country-specific experience, working on agro-food trade and domestic policies issues in Bulgaria, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Portugal and Romania. Prior to joining the OECD, she was a Research Associate at the World Economy Group, an academic research centre at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris), working on various trade policy and European Union policy issues. Silvia holds a Master's Degree in International Economics from Sciences Po Paris.

**ROBERTA PIERMARTINI**

Counsellor, Economic Research and Statistics Division, World Trade Organization

Roberta Piermartini is Chief of Trade Costs Analysis at the WTO. She has 20 years' experience in research on trade, trade policy and inclusive development. She has published extensively in academic journals and various books. She is lead author of the World Trade Report as well as coordinator for WTO-WB joint publications on gender and poverty. She is author of two WTO-UNCTAD joint publications on trade policy modelling. She has served the WTO Dispute Settlement in several Panel and Arbitration cases. Prior to joining the WTO in 2000, she was lecturer in economics and statistics at the University of Southampton and research fellow in the research division of Confindustria. She also has been teaching at the University of Geneva and LUISS. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Southampton.

**COSIMO BEVERELLI**

Research Economist, Economic Research and Statistics Division, World Trade Organization

Cosimo Beverelli is a research economist in the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization, and Global Economics Programme Associate in the Global Governance Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute. He held teaching positions at the University of Geneva and at the World Trade Institute, Bern, and a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute in 2018-2019. He received his PhD in international economics from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, in 2009. His research has been published in several academic journals, including the Journal of International Economics, the Journal of Comparative Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, and World Development. In 2020, he co-edited a volume on International Trade, Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals for Cambridge University Press. His current research interests are about the role of institutions in international trade, the effects of trade facilitation, the causes and consequences of illicit trade, and the relationship between trade and health.

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WILLIAM GAIN

Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group

William Gain is the Global Lead for Trade Facilitation and Border Management within the World Bank Group's Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice where Bill leads the implementation of Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management reform in over 70 countries. He has over 40 years' experience in undertaking management and leadership roles with a focus on Customs reform and modernization, trade facilitation, border management and private sector development in developing and conflict affected countries. Prior to joining the WBG, he was Associate Director & Manager for New Zealand and the Pacific at the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra. Prior roles also include a 30 year career with New Zealand Customs. Bill holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (2000) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business (HR & Change Management), from the University of Auckland, New Zealand (1996).



KOEN BERDEN

Executive Director International Affairs, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

Dr. Koen Berden works for the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) where he is external Executive Director for International Trade, responsible for EFPIA's international cooperations including in Russia, Turkey, China and Japan, as well as Brexit and the EU-US relationship. He promotes a dynamic trade and investment agenda in support of innovation in general and for the pharmaceutical industry in particular. Via broader alliances and research-based advocacy he engages with a wide range of stakeholders in areas like intellectual property, regulatory cooperation, market access and customs and tariff issues with regards to the production of innovative medicines. Koen is also assistant professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam. In these different roles, he is focused on promoting innovation, lecturing and researching on the potential impact of trade and investment agreements as well as ex-post evaluations of trade agreements. He is particularly interested in the sustainable elements (social, environmental and human rights) and on how to stimulate innovation for long-term gains from trade and investment.

Before starting Trade Impact and EFPIA, Koen served as Director of Outreach and Member of the Board of Directors at the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland, where he was responsible for the WTI project portfolio and its strategic alliances. From 2006 – 2015, he worked at Ecorys, the oldest and one of the largest public-sector consulting firms in Europe, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where he was first Partner and Commercial Director and later served as Senior Partner and its Managing Director. For the Ecorys Group, Koen was EU Market Director, Chief Innovation Officer, and Chief Economist.

Koen did his PhD in Economics at the Tinbergen Institute on 'Innovation, Uncertainty and Economic Growth'. Before that, he graduated with honours from Erasmus University Rotterdam in the double master of International and Financial Economics and did his International Baccalaureate at the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales.

As part of his other interests, Koen is currently member of the Supervisory Board of Clingendael, fellow of the Transatlantic Policy network, Executive Board member of the Women Economic Forum (WEF), member of the Studiegezelschap Economische Politiek, and member of the Rotterdam Economic Council.

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Session 2 - The Trade Facilitation Agreement and Digitalized Trade



SUJA RISHIKESH MAVROIDIS

Director, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization

Mrs Suja Rishikesh Mavroidis is Director in the Market Access Division at the WTO. She has worked almost thirty years at the GATT/WTO in different capacities. She started in the Development Division where she dealt with issues such as tropical products and natural-resource based products. As a member of the Market Access Division she dealt with inter alia tariffs, the Customs Valuation Agreement and the Pre-shipment Inspection Agreement. Since 2001 she has been Secretary to the DDA Negotiating Group on Market Access. In February 2015, she became Director of the Market Access Division. She has a degree in business administration from the University of Geneva and a Master's degree in International relations from the University of Cambridge, UK.

1. Single Window and Digitalized Trade



SUNG-HEUN HA

Director General, e-Revenue Stamp Department - Korea Trade Network (KTNET)

Don ("DongWhan") LEE, has hands-on experience and extensive knowledge of international trade business through his career with Hanwha Corp. from 1994 to 2000. Work experience as the Director for Silicon Valley office, California of a Korean High-tech Start-up for 2 years from 2000 to 2002 provided practical knowledge and experience on cutting-edge ICT for Don's career.

Since his start to work for KTNET as a Project Manager for building up Global paperless trade service network project to enable cross border transaction of electronic documents between Korea and EU member countries by interoperability of each countries' paperless trade hubs in 2002, Don LEE lead the formation of "ASEAL (Asia-Europe Alliance for paperless trade)", Private-Public Partnership Dialogue, as an founding member and developed business alliances with nation-wide paperless trade hubs to realize seamless paperless trade.

For the readiness of Global paperless trade infrastructure, Don LEE has initiated business opportunities and lead consultancy and system implementation projects under the framework of ODA and trade facilitation program of Korean Government, MDB's, and other Institutes. New Customs System for Mongolian Customs, Implementation of Libyan Trade Network system for foreign trade financed by Libyan Government, Implementing Modules of Peruvian VUCE(Foreign Trade Single Window system) 2.0, Modernization of Kenyan Customs Administration, Tanzanian e-Customs project, and Uzbekistan National Paperless Trade Platform Implementations are the cases.

With the bachelor's degree of Economics at Korea University, Seoul, Don LEE got his MBA degree at Korea University 2006, and has completed course work for Ph. D of international trade at Dankook University(Ph. D Candidate), Korea to do study and research for how to share Korea's knowledge and experience on e-government and paperless trade with developing countries in order to contribute to their sustainable growth.

Don LEE's Contact information is "donlee@ktnet.co.kr"

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**XIAOHUI ZHANG***First Secretary of Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the WTO*

Mr Xiaohui ZHANG has served as First Secretary of Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the WTO since April 2019. Mr Zhang formerly served as director of International Enforcement Cooperation Division and director of General Affairs Office in Anti-smuggling Bureau, General Administration of China Customs. He has long and extensive experience on compliance and trade facilitation, international cooperation, enforcement and legal issues, serving as first secretary in the Representative Office of China to the World Customs Organization (WCO), Mission of the People's Republic of China to the EU and deputy director of Legislation Division in Anti-smuggling Bureau, GACC. Mr Zhang holds a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a Master's degree in Law from Peking University, and a Master's degree in economics. He is a lawyer and Certified Global Financial Risk Manager (FRM).

**TIAGO MARTINS BARBOSA***Brazil Single Window Manager and General Coordinator of Strategic Projects at the Ministry of Economy of Brazil*

Barbosa is Brazil Single Window Manager and General Coordinator of Strategic Projects at the Ministry of Economy of Brazil. Since 2014, Barbosa works with trade facilitation in the Brazilian Government and gives lectures on digital trade and data interoperability.

**ÖZLEM SOYSANLI***Technical Officer, Facilitation, World Customs Organization*

Mrs. Özlem SOYSANLI is a Technical Officer in the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium. She joined the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate in August 2018. She previously worked in various capacities in the Turkish Customs Administration for more than 22 years, mainly in customs legislation area. She also worked as the Customs Counsellor in the Turkish Embassy in Brussels from 2014 to 2018 with the responsibility for representing the Turkish Customs at the WCO as well as at the Belgium Customs. In the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate, she is primarily in charge of the WCO Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP), the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), National Trade Facilitation Committees (NCTFs), Disruptive Technologies, Future of Customs and E-Commerce.

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CARLOS GRAU TANNER

Director General, Global Express Association

Carlos Grau Tanner is the Director General of the Geneva-based Global Express Association (GEA), which he joined in 2010. GEA is the global trade association of the three leading express delivery carriers (DHL, FedEx/TNT and UPS). A dual Swiss-Spanish citizen, Mr Grau holds a Law Degree from the University of Barcelona, Spain, and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University (Boston, USA). In previous professional lives, he worked for the airline industry - at Swissair and IATA, where he was Director of Government and Industry Affairs - and for the Council of Europe, an inter-governmental organisation.

2. Widening implementation and realising the benefits of Single Windows



ZAHOUANI SAADAOU

Head of Sector for Electronic Customs, DG Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD), European Commission

Zahouani Saadaoui has been working for the European Commission for more than 16 years holding various positions in relation to customs, taxation and digitalization. He is currently working at DG TAXUD (Customs and Taxation) as Head of the electronic Customs sector. Prior to that, he held several positions in the private sector in supply chain automation and information systems security. With his team, he now focuses on the legal, policy and business developments of the [EU Single Window environment for customs](#) and on the maintenance of the [Multi-Annual Strategic Plan for Customs electronic systems \(MASP-C\)](#). He is also a member of the Blockchain@TAXUD team and is focusing more specifically on customs use cases.



KYEREMEH YEBOAH

Head, Trade Facilitation and Import Management, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana

- Head of Trade Facilitation and Import Management Division
- Chairman of Ghana's National Trade Facilitation Committee for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- Chairman of ECOWAS Regional Trade Facilitation Committee
- Liaison between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ghana Revenue Authority – Customs Division on trade facilitation
- Systems administrator of Ghana's Single Window Platform (Integrated Customs Management System – ICUMS) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry
- A member of the AfCFTA Technical Working Group on Trade Facilitation
- A member of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Implementation Committee

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**RAYMOND R. AMAGLO***Director of Operations, Ghana Link Network Services Ltd*

Ghanaian with a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Ghana, a BSc. in Banking & Finance and a Diploma in Statistics. Currently working as the Head of Operations for an IT solutions firm in Ghana with a focus on Trade Facilitation I.T solutions; Ghana Link Network Services Ltd. Has expertise in Project Management, Investment, Stakeholder Management, and Training with over 18 years work experience. A member of the Business Development Committee of the Institute of Directors Ghana, and a member of the Gender Trade Sub Committee of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, Ghana.

**DEBORA PONCE***Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the World Trade Organization*

Guatemalan Lawyer and Notary Public with a Master's in International and European Commercial and Economic Law from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Currently working as a Counsellor for the Mission of Guatemala to the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC. Has expertise in Trade, Investment, Development, Environment, Regional Trade Agreements, Fisheries Subsidies, Dispute Settlement, SMEs and E-commerce. Lead negotiator for the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and Trade Facilitation Negotiations. Chair of the TRIMS Committee at WTO.

**BUKET ASAF***Head of Department, Directorate General of Customs of Türkiye*

Born on February 26, 1981, in Turkey, Buket ASAF is a graduate of Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Ankara University and an MBA from the Mccoll School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte, USA. She started his career at the Ministry of Finance as a Tax Inspector in 2005. She previously served as Customs Expert at the Ministry of Customs and Trade from 2006 until 2012. She worked as a Branch Manager at the Western Mediterranean Regional Directorate of Customs and Trade in 2012 where she also worked as a team member established for putting EU NCTS System in practice in Turkey and a regional coordinator of new transit system. From 2013 until 2021 she served as Trade Expert at Department of Electronic Customs Operations organized under Directorate General of Customs of Turkey where she gained rich experience about Paperless Customs Implementations, Electronic Customs Procedures, Customs Single Window Implementations and Electronic Customs Simplifications in Turkey. She has been working as Head of Electronic Customs Operations and Digital Transformation & Analysis Departments since 2021.

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PHILIP HORSWIL

Head of Single Trade Window Policy, Borders and Trade, HM Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom

Philip is the Head of Policy for the UK's ambitious Single Trade Window (STW) programme. He leads on the policy design of the UK's STW, and is responsible for agreeing its functions and capability, particularly how data can be moved between authorities and the legislative changes required to implement the new scheme. Philip has worked in UK Government for 11 years and has led on a wide range of policy over that period, including the enforcement of Intellectual Property, welfare, skills, taxation, and customs. He joined HM Revenue & Customs in January 2019 and has led on the policy for several significant programmes over the last three years, including changes to taxation, reducing tax avoidance and, during the Covid pandemic, the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, before taking up his current STW design role in February 2020.

Session 3 - critical role of national trade facilitation committees in TFA implementation

H.E. (DR) ADAMU MOHAMMED ABDULHAMID

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the WTO, Chairman of the Committee on Trade Facilitation



Born on 2nd June, 1966 in Kano, Nigeria. Had Primary and Secondary Schools in Nigeria. Obtained B.SC Political Science (International Relations) from Bayero University, Kano in 1991. Started work with the Federal Government of Nigeria at the then Federal Ministry of Commerce in 1993. Obtained WTO Trade Policy Diploma from ITTC, WTO, Geneva, Switzerland in 2002. Attended University of Clermont Ferrand, France where M. SC Economic and International Development was obtained in 2006. Attended various Geneva based and Regional WTO courses on WTO Issues. Currently working at the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Abuja, Nigeria as an Assistant Director, WTO matters and National Secretary, National Trade Facilitation Committee, Nigeria.

KOLAWOLE SOFOLA

Ag. Director – Trade, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



Mr. Kolawole Sofola is a Development Economist and a Chartered Management Accountant with over 20 years of public and private sector experience in International Trade, Private Sector Development, Finance and Management. His public service record includes working for the Government of Ghana in the Ministry for Private Sector Development, as well as an International Trade and Development Expert for the ECOWAS Commission. He also acquired years of private sector managerial experience with the multinational blue chip giant, Siemens within the UK and Germany.

Mr. Sofola is an ex-Overseas Development Institute (ODI) fellow and is currently working for the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as the Acting Director for Trade. Mr. Sofola is also the principal lead for ECOWAS in the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as well African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA).

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**ELÇİN EDİS**

Head of Department, Directorate General for International Agreements and European Union, Ministry of Trade of Türkiye

Elçin Edis is an experienced trade expert with 25 years of professional carrier in international trade and the multilateral trading system of the WTO.

Currently, she is working as the Head of Department for Regional Agreements and the WTO Dispute Settlement System at the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye, Directorate-General of International Agreements and the European Union.

Following her return back to Türkiye, from Santiago de Chile where she worked between 2016 and 2020 as the Trade Counsellor at the Embassy of Türkiye to Chile, she led bilateral trade relations of Türkiye with Eastern Asian and Pacific Countries again as the Head of Department at the same Ministry.

From 2012 to 2016, she worked as Head of Department for WTO and the multilateral trade organizations at then Ministry of Economy of Türkiye and acted as National Trade Contact, during Türkiye's G-20 Term Presidency in 2015 and G-20 Troika in 2014-2016.

Since the beginning of her professional carrier in 1996 at the Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade of Türkiye, she worked for 20 years on WTO and other international and regional trade organizations, including OECD, UNCTAD, WHO Convention on Tobacco Control.

As Assistant Trade Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the WTO, Geneva from 2006 to 2009, she actively participated as member of Türkiye's negotiating team in many of the key areas of WTO multilateral trade negotiations, including Negotiations on Agriculture, Information Technology Agreement and Trade Facilitation, along with her role in following up the regular work of many of WTO Committees and Working Groups on Accessions to WTO.

She is graduate of University of Ankara, Political Sciences and fluent in English with working level of Spanish and French.

EDWIN VASQUEZ

Under-Secretary of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Production of Ecuador

Undersecretary for Trade Negotiations and Chief Negotiator for the negotiation processes with Mexico and South Korea.

His negotiating experience includes the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, processes in which he provided technical support to the agriculture roundtables.

He served as Chief of the Agriculture Roundtable in the negotiation process with the European Union and in the Market Access Roundtable in the negotiation processes with South Korea and the EFTA States.

He was recently Chief Negotiator of the Trade Integration Agreement with Chile and the extension and deepening of the Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala.

Also, as part of his responsibilities, he is in charge of coordinating the implementation of current trade agreements and monitoring the trade policies of Ecuador's main trading partners.

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CHEA SAMNANG

Deputy Director, Department of International Customs Cooperation, General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, Ministry of Economy and Finances of Cambodia

Chea Samnang has been working for the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, Ministry of Economy and Finance for over 15 years. He is currently appointed to be Deputy Director of the Department of International Customs Cooperation in charge of the negotiation and the implementation of the free trade agreement and international customs cooperation.

He was recently recognized as World Customs Organization accredited expert on international convention on simplification and harmonization of customs procedures in 2016 and Mercator Programme Advisor on WTO TFA in 2018. He conducted several national workshops and WCO Diagnostic missions to various Customs Administrations on RKC and WTO TFA. In addition, as member of Secretariat of National Committee on Trade Facilitation, He actively contributes to the Cambodia roadmap for trade facilitation and its action plan 2022-2023.

He is also working for the Supreme National Economic Council, which is the Think Tank to Prime Minister. He contributed to the research of SNEC on labor market and Cambodia Vision 2050, rectangular strategy of the government and policy framework of the digital economy of Cambodia. Before joining the Ministry of Economy and Finance, He had about 4 years working experience as researcher at the Economic Institute of Cambodia and Head of globalization and economic integration research program.

He has written many articles about the economic affects of Cambodia's accession to the WTO, some of which have been published in the Yale Journal and the Cambridge University Press.

In 2003, he graduated with an M.Sc in International Finance CERAM –European Graduated School of Management, France and an MBA degree in International Business Management from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Currently, he is doctoral student in Economics and Econometric at Institute for International Trade of the University of Adelaide, Australia. His research interest is on “Openness, Uneven Growth and Economic Transformation, Case of LDCs” .

Vijay Singh Chauhan

Customs Authority for Advance Rulings · Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

Vijay Singh Chauhan is a senior Indian civil servant, with 30 years of extensive experience in fiscal policy and trade facilitation. He led the implementation of trade facilitation at the largest Indian port JNPT and Mumbai Aircargo, and presently functions as the first Customs Authority for Advance Rulings - an important TF commitment. He has worked extensively on performance measurement of trade facilitation, leading the JNCH TRS and more recently National TRS 2022, besides publishing academic papers on the subject. He is presently pursuing doctoral degree on trade facilitation.

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Session 4 - challenges and opportunities of TFA implementation

1. Single Window and Digitalized Trade

**CHRISTOPHER O'TOOLE**

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization

Christopher O'Toole has worked in the trade policy field for twenty-five years. He was Canada's co-lead negotiator for the trade and environment provisions in the CETA and TPP, worked on APEC and WTO environmental goods negotiations, and was the Canadian lead for CUSMA's TBT and GRP Chapters. Mr. O'Toole is on his second assignment to Canada's WTO Mission in Geneva, responsible for the Council for Trade in Goods, the Market Access, Trade Facilitation and ITA Committees as well as Informal MSME Working Group. He is also the past Chair of the Trade Facilitation Committee.

**ANKE RALOFF**

Head, Division for Special Trade Policy (EU/WTO), Customs and Tariff Policy, and Trade Policy Instruments, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Dr. Anke Raloff has been with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action since 2007. She heads the Division for Special Trade Policy (EU/WTO), Customs and Tariff Policy, and Trade Policy Instruments (VA5). She previously led the Division for General Trade Policy Issues, Services, and Intellectual Property. As a desk officer, she served in, among other areas, the US, Canada, and Mexico Division as well as in the Central Legal Affairs Division at the Ministry for Economic Affairs.

From 2004 to 2007, Dr. Raloff worked as an attorney in corporate law at a large German law firm. She earned her PhD at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. In 2001, she completed an LLM at New York University and was admitted to practice law in the state of New York. From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Raloff studied law at the universities of Hamburg and Geneva. From 1991 to 1992 she spent a year in Paso Robles, California, as a high school exchange student.

**STEPHAN BETHE**

Head, Trade Division, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

Stephan Bethe is an economist who joined the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2003. He served in several units (such as press office, public relations, Migration and Development). Since December 2019 he is Head of Division Trade and is working on trade related aspects of development cooperation.

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CAROLINA ACOSTA

CIPE Representative, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation - Innovative Cooperation: The experience of implementing the TFA agreement from the ground

Lawyer from the Externado de Colombia University and Master of laws (LL.M) in International Legal Studies with emphasis in international trade law and business from American University, Washington college of law, United States of America.

Ms. Acosta has over 15 years of experience in international trade law, customs and trade facilitation. She has strong analysis on trade policy initiatives, regulatory rulemaking, and ability to liaise with external regulators, build legal positions and consensus. She is the representative of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

As part of Ms. Acosta previous professional experience, she has worked for the Inter-American Development Bank and as Trade Counselor of the Embassy of Colombia in Washington D.C. United States, during the approval and implementation of the US - Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; Previously she was a counselor for the Ministry of Trade an member of the Trade Negotiating Team of the trade agreements between Colombia and Canada, the European Union, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as well as the Andean Community. She is also professor at the Externado de Colombia University leading the academic programs related to customs and tax law. Ms. Acosta is fluent in Spanish and English.



WILLIAM GAIN

Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group

William Gain is the Global Lead for Trade Facilitation and Border Management within the World Bank Group's Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice where Bill leads the implementation of Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management reform in over 70 countries. He has over 40 years' experience in undertaking management and leadership roles with a focus on Customs reform and modernization, trade facilitation, border management and private sector development in developing and conflict affected countries. Prior to joining the WBG, he was Associate Director & Manager for New Zealand and the Pacific at the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra. Prior roles also include a 30 year career with New Zealand Customs. Bill holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (2000) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business (HR & Change Management), from the University of Auckland, New Zealand (1996).

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BUDDHI UPADHYAYA

Counsellor/DPR (Commerce) Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva Nepal

Academic Qualification: Master of Public Policy, KDI School of Public Policy & Management, South Korea; MPA and MBA, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Trainings: Post-graduate Diploma in Development Studies of IDES, JETRO, Japan; Regional Trade Policy Course and Advanced Trade Policy Course of the WTO; Development Diplomacy Programme of GIZ; and other trainings

Professional Experiences: 22 years of professional experiences in civil service of Nepal including nine and half years in trade and development (mostly in multilateral trade and few years in bilateral and regional trade) in the Ministry, and two and half years in Nepal's Mission in Geneva as Counsellor/DPR (Commerce) with responsibility related to all WTO matters and International Trade Centre.

Focal point on trade facilitation, and aid for trade at the LDC group at the WTO

Chair of the Committee on Customs Valuation for the year 2021/22 (one year).



POUL HANSEN

Chief, Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD

Poul Hansen is responsible for the Trade Facilitation portfolio at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Poul has extensive experience in the area of trade and transport facilitation, having worked for more almost 20 years in the UN system on issues such as international trade, transportation, transit, development, international standards, previously working at the UNECE as Secretary for the TIR and International Harmonization Conventions etc. Poul also has extensive experience in international sports policy having headed the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

Prior to joining the UN, Poul worked for more than 10 years in the private sector in public affairs, management consulting and logistics with organizations including Ernst & Young, FreightForward Europe (FFE), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Ziegler Group, and the Danish Transport and Logistics Federation gaining experience in various industries. Poul's studies include both master and bachelor levels in Business Administration and International Law from the Aarhus University as well as Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. Poul is a certified freight forwarding agent.

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**SHERI ROSENOW***Counsellor, World Trade Organization*

Sheri Rosenow is a customs attorney working as a counsellor in the WTO Market Access Division. She has been involved in WTO trade facilitation since the negotiations began and is currently responsible for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility. Prior to joining the WTO Secretariat she worked as an advisor on customs and WTO accession issues for USAID projects in Central Asia and the Middle East. She started her career on the commercial legal staff of the US Customs Service.

**PIERRE BONTHONNEAU***Trade Facilitation Expert, International Trade Centre*

Pierre Bonthonneau is a Senior Trade Facilitation Adviser at the International Trade Center in Geneva. He has over 15 years of experience in international trade, working with logistics services providers, strategy consulting firm and UN organizations.

Pierre worked in the logistics industry in Africa where he was responsible for the clearing and forwarding activities of logistics services provider. He also worked for the Boston Consulting Group, a business strategy consulting firm, where he was involved, among other, on the definition of export strategies for developing countries and supporting multinational in structuring their value chains in Africa.

Since he joined ITC as an expert in trade facilitation, Pierre has assisted over 40 countries in implementing their obligations under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

**PHILIPPE ISLER***Executive Director Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation*

Philippe Isler is the Director of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, a public-private partnership for trade-led growth, supporting governments in developing countries implement the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement. Mr. Isler has 25 years of experience leading trade facilitation initiatives in most parts of the world. In particular he developed and deployed solutions aimed at digitalising supply chain processes in a number of developing countries mostly through public-private partnership mechanisms. Previously, Mr. Isler was Vice-President at SGS Group leading the business development and implementation of trade community systems, e-government, telecom monitoring and port and customs operations. Mr. Isler earned a Bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering from Bristol University.
