

## INSTITUTIONAL SPEAKERS

### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND



#### **Jihad Azour**

*Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund*

Jihad Azour is Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund, where he oversees the Fund's work across the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

Mr. Azour served as Lebanon's Minister of Finance from 2005 to 2008, during which he coordinated the implementation of key economic reforms, including the modernization of tax and customs systems. Before and following his time in government, he held a range of senior positions in the private sector, including at McKinsey & Company and Booz & Company, where he was a Vice President and Senior Executive Advisor. Prior to joining the IMF in March 2017, he was Managing Partner at investment firm Inventis Partners.

Mr. Azour holds a PhD in International Finance and a postgraduate degree in International Economics and Finance from Sciences Po. He also conducted postdoctoral research on emerging economies and their integration into the global economy at Harvard University. He has published several books and articles on economic and financial issues and has taught extensively.



#### **Charles Cohen**

*Senior Advisor, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, IMF*

Charles Cohen is an Advisor in the Monetary and Capital Markets Department of the International Monetary Fund, where he works on a range of financial market issues. Prior to his current role, he managed a team covering emerging markets for the Global Financial Stability Report and worked on sovereign debt risks and the development of local capital markets. Mr. Cohen joined the IMF in 2017 from the United States Treasury, where he served as Acting Director of Analysis for the Financial Stability Oversight Council. Before his public sector experience, he spent nine years in asset management as an Executive Vice President at Bain Capital Credit. Mr. Cohen holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, an M.S. from the University of Chicago, and a B.S. from Stanford University.



**Nigel Clarke**

*Deputy Managing Director, IMF*

Mr. Clarke assumed the role of Deputy Managing Director at the IMF on October 31, 2024.

Before joining the IMF, Mr. Clarke served as Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service, and a Member of Parliament, since March 2018. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador of Economic Affairs from 2016. During this period, he stewarded his country's economy to a stronger and more sustainable position. He spearheaded ambitious national reforms, including central bank independence, creation of an independent fiscal commission, as well as other tax policy, public body governance, public procurement, public sector compensation, and public investment management reforms. He also led Jamaica's economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative and well-targeted policy support and completed privatizations and public-private partnerships of major infrastructure assets. Under his stewardship, Jamaica implemented a multi-layered disaster risk financing model, and became the first small country to independently sponsor a catastrophe bond, with World Bank assistance. In 2023, Jamaica successfully completed its first ever international issue of a local currency denominated bond, and in 2024, Jamaica successfully executed its first ever securitization transaction in international capital markets.

In 2022, Mr. Clarke was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Corporation. Prior to his public service career, he was Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of the Musson Group, a regional conglomerate, having started his career as an Equity Derivatives Trader at Goldman Sachs in London.

Mr. Clarke holds a PhD in Numerical Analysis from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a Master of Science Degree in Applied Statistics, also from Oxford, while he was a Commonwealth Scholar. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of the West Indies where he was a Jamaica Independence Scholar.



**Kristalina Georgieva**  
*Managing Director, IMF*

Kristalina Georgieva has served as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund since October 2019 and began her second term in October 2024. In this role, she leads the Fund’s work to support global economic stability, including through policy advice, financing, and capacity development for its member countries.

Prior to joining the IMF, Ms. Georgieva served as Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Group, where she also held the role of Interim President. Earlier, she served at the European Commission as Vice President for Budget and Human Resources and as Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. She began her career at the World Bank in 1993, holding several senior positions including Vice President and Corporate Secretary.

Ms. Georgieva holds a PhD in Economic Science and an MA in Political Economy and Sociology from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria. She has authored numerous publications on economic policy and has received several international awards and honors for her public service.



**Chady Adel El Khoury**  
*Assistant General Counsel and Division Chief of the Financial Integrity Group, Legal Department, IMF*

Chady Adel El Khoury is Assistant General Counsel and Division Chief of the Financial Integrity Group in the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund. In this role, he leads the Fund’s work on financial integrity, overseeing policy development, surveillance, lending, and capacity development related to anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) and illicit financial flows. His areas of expertise include governance and anti-corruption, financial crime, and broader financial integrity issues, as well as their implications for macroeconomic and financial stability.

Prior to joining the IMF in 2007, he worked at the Special Investigation Commission, the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Lebanese Central Bank.

Mr. El Khoury received his education in law and finance in Lebanon and France.



**Julie Kozack**

*Director, Communications Department, IMF*

Julie Kozack is Director of the Communications Department at the International Monetary Fund, where she leads the Fund’s strategy on external engagement with media and key stakeholders, including legislatures and parliaments, labor representatives, civil society, and academia, as well as the institution’s internal communications. She works closely with the Managing Director and senior management on communicating the Fund’s operations, including policy and lending decisions.

Prior to this role, Ms. Kozack served as Deputy Director in the European Department, where she oversaw the IMF’s work on Ukraine. She also served as Deputy Director in the Western Hemisphere Department and as lead negotiator for Argentina on its IMF-supported program. Earlier in her career, she worked in the Research Department and the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, and served as mission chief for Germany, Iceland (during the crisis program period), Lithuania, and Poland, as well as deputy mission chief for Russia. She was also closely involved in multilateral surveillance, including G20 and G7 engagement during the global financial crisis.

Ms. Kozack also served as Director of the Singapore Regional Training Institute, where she led the delivery of training and capacity development across the Asia-Pacific region and strengthened engagement with regional stakeholders, including parliamentarians, through workshops and public outreach.

Ms. Kozack holds a PhD and two master’s degrees in economics from Columbia University and a BA from Rutgers University.



**Marina Mendes Tavares**

*Senior Economist, Research Department, IMF*

Marina Mendes Tavares is a Senior Economist in the Research Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Before joining the Fund, Marina worked as an assistant professor at Instituto Tecnológico Autonomo de Mexico (ITAM). She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota and an MA from the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada (IMPA). Her research interests include macroeconomics, public finance, gender, and inequality.



**Karen Ongley**

*Assistant Director, IMF*

Karen Ongley is an Advisor in the IMF's African Department and is currently Mission Chief for Sierra Leone. Since joining the IMF in 1998, Karen has worked on a range of low- and middle-income economies including Afghanistan, Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Yemen, and West Bank & Gaza. She has also worked extensively on IMF lending policies and other policy issues. Prior to joining the IMF, Karen worked on tax policy and international economy issues at the Australian Treasury, and as a policy advisor to a Cabinet Minister. She has degrees from the University of Sydney and Newcastle University.



**Makhtar Diop**

*Managing Director, IFC*

Makhtar Diop is the Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the largest development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets and developing economies.

In this role, which he assumed on March 1st, 2021, Mr. Diop promotes private sector-led development to advance the World Bank Group's mission of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet.

His tenure has been marked by a strategic focus on creating sustainable, inclusive growth that addresses global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.

To achieve these goals, Mr. Diop has emphasized the importance of scaling investments in critical sectors like infrastructure, digital economy, healthcare, and renewable energy. He champions innovative financing solutions, leveraging the power of blended finance, de-risking mechanisms, and public-private partnerships to attract private capital to high-impact projects. This approach has enabled the IFC to mobilize billions of dollars in investments, particularly in regions with limited access to capital and those affected by conflict.

Under Mr. Diop's guidance, the IFC has also prioritized financial and economic inclusion, working to expand access to financial services for women, small businesses, and rural communities. His commitment to digital transformation has led to increased investments in fintech and digital infrastructure, helping to bridge the digital divide and foster innovation in emerging markets.

Sustainable development has been a key priority under Mr. Diop's leadership. The IFC has significantly increased its investments in projects that promote environmental responsibility, foster long-term resilience, and reduce environmental impact. He has highlighted the importance of supporting initiatives that contribute to sustainable growth and help communities adapt to a changing climate.

Prior to joining the IFC, Mr. Diop served as the World Bank's Vice President for Infrastructure from 2018 to 2021, where he led the Bank's global efforts to build sustainable infrastructure in developing and emerging economies. Before that, he served for six years as the World Bank's Vice President for Africa, overseeing the delivery of a record-breaking USD 70 billion to Sub-Saharan Africa to help tackle development challenges.

Mr. Diop's career spans both the public and private sectors. He started his career in the banking industry before joining the IMF and later the World Bank. He also served as Minister of Economy and Finance of Senegal, where he played a key role in instituting structural reforms that helped build a strong foundation for Senegal's growth in the late 1980s.

A recognized opinion leader in economic and social development, Makhtar Diop has been named one of the 100 most influential Africans in the world. In 2015, he received the prestigious Regents' Lectureship Award from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Diop holds degrees in economics from the Universities of Warwick

and Nottingham in England.

## WORLD BANK GROUP



### **Ajay Banga**

*President, World Bank Group*

Ajay Banga is the President of the World Bank Group, beginning his five-year term on June 2, 2023. He stepped into the role with a clear mandate: to transform the 80-year-old institution into a faster, more efficient, and more impactful partner in development.

Since taking office, Ajay has led the adoption of a new vision and mission for the World Bank: to create a world free of poverty—on a livable planet. Under his leadership, the Bank has undertaken a broad set of reforms to boost lending capacity, simplify operations, and deliver development solutions that are practical, scalable, and impactful. He has prioritized a more agile institution—one that is easier to work with and focused on getting results.

At the core of Ajay’s agenda is a belief that job creation is the most powerful driver of development—offering not just income, but dignity and purpose. That conviction has helped shape new efforts to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030, expand access to quality and affordable healthcare for 1.5 billion people, and develop a modern approach to agribusiness that can drive growth, improve food security, and create economic opportunity.

Ajay has also brought renewed focus to harnessing the power of the private sector. He has strengthened collaboration with development partners, philanthropies, and investors, and launched the Private Sector Investment Lab—bringing together leading CEOs and asset managers to tackle the barriers holding back private capital in emerging markets. His approach reflects a fundamental shift: development progress at scale cannot be achieved without the innovation, financing, and execution capabilities of the private sector.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Ajay was Vice Chairman at General Atlantic and, before that, President and CEO of Mastercard. There, he led a global workforce of nearly 24,000 and made financial inclusion a core part of the company’s strategy. He also founded the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth to advance equitable and sustainable economic opportunity.

Ajay’s leadership extends beyond the private sector. He served as Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (2020–2022), and has held board roles with the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods, and Dow Inc. He is also a co-founder of the Cyber Readiness Institute. His contributions have earned wide recognition, including the Singapore Public Service Star award (2022), the Padma Shri from the President of India (2016), the Foreign Policy Association Medal (2012), and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

As President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga is reshaping the institution to meet the defining challenges of our time—with urgency, ambition, and a relentless focus on delivering results.



**Shubham Chaudhuri**

Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank Group

Shubham Chaudhuri is the Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Group at the World Bank, reporting to the Managing Director of Operations. He started in this role on January 2, 2025. Prior to assuming this position, Shubham served as the World Bank's Country Director for Nigeria, based in Abuja, from 2019 to 2024, and for Afghanistan, based in Kabul, from 2016 to 2019.

The FCV Group, led by Shubham, provides strategic guidance, knowledge, and operational support on the FCV agenda to the country teams and global and corporate units under the World Bank Group's new roadmap and is leading the development of a new group-wide FCV strategy, working in close coordination with all parts of the World Bank Group. Shubham and his team also represent the World Bank in external FCV fora and manage the relationships with the World Bank's shareholders and other stakeholders on FCV issues.

Shubham, an Indian-born US national, joined the World Bank in 2004. He worked initially on China and regional policy issues based out of Washington before moving to Jakarta where he spent five years leading the overall economic policy dialogue, advisory and development policy lending work of the World Bank in Indonesia. He then returned to Washington for four years, where he was first, the Sector Manager for the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department for East Asia and the Pacific and then the South Asia Practice Manager for the World Bank's Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Global Practice, overseeing the macro-fiscal and economic policy-related teams and work of the World Bank in the South Asia region.



Before joining the World Bank, Shubham spent a decade at Columbia University in New York, where he was an economics professor and Director of the Program in Economic and Political Development. His research, published in some of the top economics journals spanned a number of areas within development economics, from poverty and vulnerability to trade and investment climate to participatory budgeting and fiscal decentralization. Shubham obtained his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his Ph.D. from Princeton University, both in economics.



**Jeff Chelsky**

*Manager, SME and Enterprise Development, World Bank Group*

Jeff Chelsky is Manager of the SME and Enterprise Development Unit (Solutions and Impact) in the World Bank Group's Trade, Competitiveness and Business (TCB) Department. Prior to joining TCB, he held several positions in the World Bank Group, including as Manager of the Economic Management and Country Programs Unit in the Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group, Lead Economist in the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, Manager of the Operations Monitoring and Analysis Unit, and Coordinator for the World Bank's engagement with the G-20. He came to the Bank in 2008 after a decade in various positions at the International Monetary Fund. He had previously worked for Canada's Departments of Finance

	<p>and of Industry. He has a Master’s degree in Economics from Queen's University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto.</p>
	<p><b>Mario Guadamillas</b>  <i>Practice Manager, Finance, Competitiveness &amp; Innovation, World Bank Group</i></p> <p>Mario Guadamillas is the Manager of Competition Policy Unit in the World Bank Group's Trade, Competitiveness and Business (TCB) Department, covering the work on enhancing market competition, strengthening value chains, and promoting innovation and technology adoption. He joined the WBG in 1998 and since then has been responsible for units covering a broad range of financial and private sector areas in global and regional teams, including coordinating the Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) and the World Bank (WB) participation in the Financial Stability Board (FSB). Before joining the WB, Mario was an Economist in the Ministry of Finance of Spain, and he also worked for the Central Bank of Spain as a financial analyst. He has lectured at several universities in the areas of macroeconomy, economic policy, international economy, and financial system. Mr. Guadamillas earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Business and Economics in Madrid.</p>
	<p><b>Jay Heimbach</b>  <i>Vice President, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank Group</i></p> <p>James “Jay” Heimbach, Vice-President of External and Corporate Relations, leads the team responsible for stakeholder relations, partnerships, and communications at the World Bank. His role focuses on developing advocacy strategies to communicate the Bank’s impact, shape public opinion on global development issues, and build support among key stakeholders. Jay brings extensive experience in global cooperation for local progress, having served as the World Bank’s Special Representative to North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel, where he managed relationships with key donor governments. Before joining the World Bank, Jay was Senior Director for North American Government Affairs at the ONE Campaign, a global advocacy organization combating extreme poverty. He also has significant experience in U.S. government roles, including Chief of Staff to Senator Sherrod Brown and Special Assistant to President Obama, where he worked on energy, environmental, and manufacturing issues. Earlier, he served in the Clinton administration as Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. Jay holds a B.A. from Colby College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law.</p>



**Alaka Holla**

*Lead Economist, People Chief Economist Unit, World Bank Group*

Alaka Holla is Lead Economist in the People Vice-Presidency at the World Bank Group and program manager of the Bank's Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the use of randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental methods to inform policies in education, health, water and sanitation, and early childhood development in low- and middle-income countries. Since joining the World Bank as a Young Professional, she has worked in both research and operational settings in a diverse set of country contexts and on multilateral initiatives to promote the measurement of child development and the costing of programs. She has published in peer-reviewed publications such as the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Public Economics*, and *Health Affairs*. She also has co-authored World Bank flagship reports such as *World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior* and *Citizens and Service Delivery: Assessing the Use of Social Accountability Approaches in Human Development Sectors*. Her research has focused on the quality of health care, discrimination, early childhood development and education, and cost analysis. She received her PhD in economics from Brown University and completed postdoctoral work at Harvard University and Innovations for Poverty Action.



**Saroj Kumar Jha**

*Director of the Water Global Practice, World Bank Group*

Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha is the Global Director for the World Bank Group's Water Department. In his current assignment, Mr. Jha leads the Department senior management team, which drives the policy direction of the Practice, oversees a portfolio of \$27 billion in water-related investments, analytical work, multi-donor trust funds and global partnerships. Mr. Jha believes that solving the water crisis is central to the future of humanity on a livable planet, and this needs global, collective action to establish water security as a key pillar in national climate and development plans. Under Mr. Jha's leadership, Water Practice is accelerating global and county level water action agenda for green, resilient, and inclusive growth, creating good jobs, and to tackle the water-climate-conflict nexus in shared river basins around the world.

Before this appointment, Mr. Jha was World Bank's Regional Director of the Middle East Department based in Beirut (Lebanon), Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Global Practice at the World Bank Group, the World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty. In addition, Mr. Jha served as the Bank's Global Manager for the Disaster Risk Management Practice and as Head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which he founded in 2006.

Mr. Jha, an Indian national, joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network, after working for the Government of India (1990-2005) in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and United Nations agencies (1999-2004) as a senior executive in the field of public sector management,

infrastructure financing, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention, and environmental sustainability.



**Luc Laviolette**

*Head of the Secretariat for the Global Financing Facility, World Bank Group*

Luc Laviolette, a Canadian national, is the Head of Secretariat for the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF). Mr. Laviolette led the GFF's Country Programs from 2017-2020 where he was instrumental in shaping the GFF's 2021-2025 strategy. He returns to the GFF after most recently leading the World Bank's human development portfolio for the Maghreb Region and Malta. From 2013 to 2017, he was Program Leader for Human Development for the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo, based in Kinshasa, where he coordinated World Bank investments in health, nutrition, population, education, social protection, gender and fragility. He joined the World Bank as Senior Nutrition Specialist in the South Asia Region in 2009, initially based in New Delhi, India and then in Islamabad, Pakistan. Prior to joining the World Bank, he held several positions including Regional Director for Asia in the non-profit organization Nutrition International, and various positions at the Canadian International Development Agency. He also worked as Counselor to the Executive Director for Canada, China, Spain, Korea and Kuwait at the African Development Bank, based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and worked at the International Development Research Centre in Canada.



**Norman Loayza**

*Director, Policy Indicators Group, World Bank Group*

Norman Loayza is Director of the Policy Indicators Group at the World Bank. Programs that he leads include Business Ready, Enterprise Surveys, Regulatory Efficiency, Financial Development Indicators, Women, Business and the Law and Worldwide Governance Indicators. Previously, he was a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group and managed the Asia hub of the Research Group, based in Malaysia. He was director of the World Development Report 2014, Risk and Opportunity: Managing Risk for Development. His research has dealt with various areas of economic and social development, including macroeconomic management, economic growth, microeconomic flexibility, private and public saving, financial depth and stability, natural disasters, and crime and violence. His advisory experience at the World Bank has ranged across different topics in various regions and countries. A few examples include business environment and economic performance in Latin America; informal and formal labor markets in the Middle East and Northern Africa; public infrastructure gaps in Pakistan and Egypt; savings for macroeconomic stability and growth in Sri Lanka, Georgia, and Egypt; and pro-poor growth in Indonesia and Peru. On external service from the World Bank, he was a Senior Economist at the Central Bank of Chile (1999-2000), where he advised on financial and monetary policy.

He has edited 10 books and published dozens of papers in professional journals and edited volumes. A Peruvian national, he holds a PhD in economics from Harvard University (1994).



**Paschal Donohoe**  
*Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer, World Bank Group*

Paschal Donohoe was appointed Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group in November 2025.

An Irish national, he leads the institution’s Knowledge Bank agenda, shaping how the World Bank Group generates, manages, and deploys knowledge to advance the mission to fight poverty and improve quality of life in emerging markets and developing economies.

As Chief Knowledge Officer, Mr. Donohoe oversees strategic engagement with governments, civil society, foundations, and philanthropic partners, ensuring that the World Bank Group remains a trusted global platform for proven solutions, policy guidance, and development innovation. His work supports the institution’s mission to deliver practical, scalable, and results-driven knowledge to sovereign and private sector clients alike.

Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Mr. Donohoe served as Ireland’s Minister for Finance and as President of the Eurogroup of finance ministers, a position to which he was first elected in July 2020 and subsequently re-elected, commencing his third term in July 2025. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism.

Over more than two decades in public service, Mr. Donohoe held several senior ministerial roles, including Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery, and Reform; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport; and Minister for European Affairs at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann in 2011 and served as a member of key parliamentary committees, including Public Accounts, EU Affairs, and Transport, and chaired the “Ireland’s Future in Europe” Parliamentary Committee. He was a member of Seanad Éireann (2007 - 2011) and also served as member of Dublin City Council (2004 - 2007).

Before entering political life, he worked in Sales and Marketing for Procter & Gamble.

He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he earned a degree in Politics and Economics, and attended St. Declan’s Christian Brothers School. In 2024 he was recognized as ‘European of the Year’ by the European Movement of Ireland. In 2025 he received the honor of ‘Chevalier Legion d’Honneur’ from the Government of France.

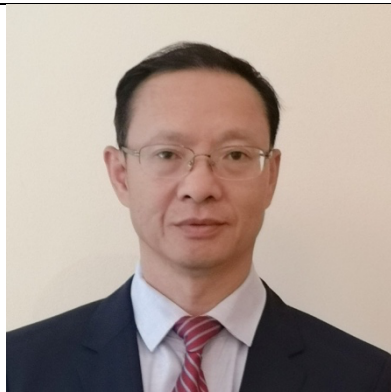


**Roby Senderowitsch**

*Practice Manager for Public Administration, Governance Global Department, World Bank Group*

Roby Senderowitsch currently serves as the Practice Manager for Public Administration, Governance Global Practice at the World Bank. Previously, he has held various positions, including Practice Manager, Governance Global Practice, Europe and Central Asia (West); Manager for Leadership, Learning & Innovation; Manager of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA); and Country Manager in the Dominican Republic. His work at the World Bank includes a strong focus on political economy analysis, building coalitions for change, anti-corruption, and performance-based management of public institutions. He has been a lecturer in Human Resource management in nonprofit organizations, as well as director of educational programs and community development and HR management in the private sector.

Roby's publications include "Building Effective, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions in Europe and Central Asia," "Democratic Governance in Mexico: Beyond State Capture and Social Polarization" (with Yasuhiko Matsuda), "Performance Informed Budgeting and Trust in Government" (with Nick Manning and others), and "From the International Financial Crisis to Inclusive Growth in the Dominican Republic." Senderowitsch holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Buenos Aires and a Masters in Policy Studies, Public Administration/Nonprofit Management from the Johns Hopkins University.



**Jie Tang**

*Practice Manager for Energy, Western and Central Africa Region, World Bank Group*




**Yadviga Semikolenova**

*Practice Manager for Energy, Eastern and Southern Africa Region, World Bank Group*

Yadviga Semikolenova is the World Bank's Energy Global Practice Manager for Eastern and Southern Africa region. She oversees a lending portfolio of \$4 billion as well as advisory and analytical engagements in client countries that span low income, middle income, and fragile, conflict, and violence settings. Throughout her career at the World Bank, the primary focus of Yadviga's work has been advancing energy sector reforms, moving forward the energy access agenda and implementation of complex infrastructure projects. She has held various positions at the World Bank in the Europe and Central

	<p>Asia Region and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), with her most recent assignment being Lead Energy Specialist and Infrastructure Program Leader for Nigeria in Western and Central Africa. She has worked on a range of energy activities in Albania, Southern Caucasus countries, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Rwanda, and has led regional engagements in Africa. Prior to joining the World Bank, she was an Assistant Professor at the Colorado School of Mines. She has an MA in Economic Theory from Kyiv School of Economics and Kyiv Mohyla Academy and a PhD in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh.</p>
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MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
	<p><b>Dr. Rick Stapenhurst</b>  <i>Associate Professor, McGill University</i></p> <p>Dr. Rick Stapenhurst is an Associate Professor (Post Retirement) at McGill University. He is a former board member at Canadian Parliamentary Centre, member of Transparency International, member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Legislative Studies, and Treasurer of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists and holds adjunct positions at Universite Laval and Carleton University. Prior to joining McGill, he worked at the World Bank concentrating on anticorruption and parliamentary development and writing extensively on these issues. Rick holds a doctorate in Business and Commerce from Australian National University, where he researched presidential and parliamentary systems of government. His most recent publications include <i>Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight: Promoting Good Governance in Smaller States</i>, which was co-edited with Isabelle Watkinson, Anthony Staddon and Lesley Burns. (Routledge, 2024), <i>Anti-Corruption Evidence: The Role of Parliaments in Curbing Corruption</i> (co-edited with Rasheed Draman, Brooke Larson and Anthony Staddon (Springer, 2020), and <i>Legislative Decline in the 21st Century</i>, co-edited with Irina Khmelko and Michael Mezey (Routledge, 2020). These and numerous other books, articles and practitioner handbooks are the result of research undertaken in collaboration with the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs, the Audit and Accountability Foundation, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, l’Universite Laval, Global Partners Governance, among others, and funded by the British Academy and Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.</p>

## UNITE



### **Dr Ricardo B. Leite**

*Former MP, Portugal; CEO of HealthAI; President and Founder Unite Parliamentarians Network for Global Health*

Mr. Leite is CEO of HealthAI, a nonprofit organization focused on expanding countries' capacity to regulate artificial intelligence in health. He is a medical doctor trained in infectious diseases with extensive experience in global health and science-based policymaking. He is a former Member of the Portuguese Parliament and founder and President of the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, a network of current and former policymakers from 110 countries.

## MP SPEAKERS

### ALGERIA



### **Hon. Salim Merah**

*MP, Algeria*

Hon. Salim Merah is a Member of Parliament in Algeria, serving as the President of the Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Emigration Committee at the People's National Assembly. In this capacity, he plays a pivotal role in shaping Algeria's foreign policy, fostering international cooperation, and addressing emigration-related matters.

Under his leadership, the committee has been instrumental in establishing parliamentary friendship groups with various countries, including Zambia and Slovenia, to strengthen bilateral relations and promote cooperation in economic, political, and social spheres.

Hon. Merah has also been actively involved in discussions on renewable energy initiatives, such as Algeria's investments in blue and green hydrogen, as well as solar energy projects, reflecting his commitment to sustainable development and international collaboration. Through his work, Hon. Merah continues to advocate for policies that enhance Algeria's global standing, focusing on diplomacy, cooperation, and sustainable development.

### ANGOLA



**Hon. Aia Eza Gomes da Silva**

*MP, Angola; Board Member, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF*

Hon. Aia-Eza Nacília Gomes da Silva Troso serves as a Member of the National Assembly of Angola, where she contributes to the Economy and Finance Commission. A Fulbright Scholar, she holds a Master's degree in Monetary Economics from the University of California, Hayward. Her distinguished career includes serving as Angola's Secretary of State for Budget and Public Investment, National Budget Director, and Director for Studies and International Relations at the Ministry of Finance, as well as Assistant for the Economics Office at the Presidency. She has also been a university professor for over a decade, teaching economics and statistics. Motivated by a strong commitment to promoting accountability, transparency, and good governance, she views the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF as a vital platform for lawmakers to share experiences, overcome challenges, and influence international financial institutions to better support parliamentary oversight and development goals.

**CANADA**



**Hon. Karina Gould**

*MP, Canada*

The Honourable Karina Gould was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Burlington in 2015.

A graduate of McGill University and the University of Oxford, Minister Gould is passionate about public service and international development. Before her election as the Member of Parliament for Burlington, she worked as a trade and investment specialist for the Mexican Trade Commission in Toronto, a consultant for the Migration and Development Program at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and spent a year volunteering at an orphanage in Mexico.

Minister Gould has deep roots in her hometown of Burlington, Ontario, and is an active member of the community and an advocate for women's issues and affordable housing. She has volunteered with and actively supports the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, the Burlington chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Mississauga Furniture Bank, Halton Women's Place, and other local organizations.

Minister Gould lives in Burlington with her husband Alberto and son Oliver.

With the birth of Oliver, Minister Gould became the first federal cabinet minister to have a baby while holding office. She is passionate about breaking down barriers for women, youth, and underrepresented groups.

## EGYPT



**Hon. Amira Saber**

*MP, Egypt*

Amira Saber is an Egyptian Member of Parliament serving as the Secretary General of the Foreign Relations Committee. Saber is the VP of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party responsible for planning and development, and a member of Egypt's Coordination's Committee of Party's Youth Leaders and Politicians. Concurrently, she serves as an appointed member of Egypt's Supreme Council of Culture. Inside the Parliament, Amira has submitted tens of legislative and oversight tools pushing for a human-centered development and progressive agenda. Amira is currently pursuing her PhD from Swiss School of Management, she holds an MA in Development Studies from the University of Sussex where she was awarded the Chevening scholarship, an MBA from ESLSCA Business School, and a BSc in Biochemistry from Egypt.

## ITALY



**Hon. Giulio Centemero**

*MP, Italy; President, PAM*

Hon. Giulio Centemero is a member of the Chamber of Deputies at the VI Finance Committee, coordinator of the financial markets unit of the Economics Department of the Lega and Treasurer of the party since 2014. He is a member of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

He is a Chartered Accountant and Statutory Auditor, with a degree in economics and commerce from the University of Bergamo and an executive Master in PA management from SDA Bocconi as well as a graduate certificate in Project management from Boston University.

Hon. Centemero trained professionally in tax M&A and at the same time consolidated his political experience in the European parliament together with Matteo Salvini. He is also co-chairman of the economic panel of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, a member of the executive board of the International Parliamentary Network for Education and president of the parliamentary intergroup of Friendship Italy - Armenia.

He has published interviews and articles in generalist and financial sector magazines and channels. His greatest interest lies in fintech and alternative capital markets.



**Hon. Federica Onori**

*MP, Italy*

Federica Onori is an Italian MP, elected to the Chamber of Deputies in October 2022. She serves as Secretary of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a member of the Italian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, where she also holds the role of Vice-Chair of the Young Parliamentarians Network. In September 2025, she was appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence. She is also active in international initiatives, including the IMF–World Bank Global Young MP Initiative and the UNITE Parliamentary Network for Global Health. She holds a PhD in Statistics from Sapienza University of Rome and previously worked as a statistical assistant at the European Commission.

**LUXEMBOURG**



**Hon. Sven Clement**

*MP, Luxembourg; Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF.*

Sven Clement, MP is a Member of Parliament for Luxembourg’s Center district since October 2018, representing the Pirate Party. Born in Luxembourg City in 1989, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Saarland University and a Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Governance from McGill University.

As an entrepreneur and technology leader, Clement co-founded and serves as CEO of AccountTech and Clement & Weyer Consulting, developing digital solutions for accounting, tax preparation, and compliance systems. His dual expertise in technology and governance uniquely positions him to bridge the digital transformation challenges facing modern parliamentary oversight.

In parliament, Clement serves as President of the verification of powers committee and is a spokesperson on multiple committees including Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Digitalisation. Internationally, he serves as a Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF, Co-Chair of the Global Young MP Initiative, and holds positions in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and OECD Global Parliamentary Network.

**MOROCCO**



**Hon. Neila Tazi**

*Senator, Morocco; Vice-Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF*

Hon. Neila Tazi has been a Senator in the Moroccan House of Counselors since 2015, where she was the first woman Vice-President of the Senate from 2016 to 2018, and the first to chair plenary sessions. She also serves as the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Chamber of Councilors.

She was born in Washington DC where her father was an Executive Director at the World Bank in the late 1960s, giving her a life-long connection to the World Bank. She is the Chair of the Moroccan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network (PN) and frequently plays an active role in PN global and regional activities. Ms. Tazi was elected as President of the Federation of Cultural and Creative Industries in February 2019. In 1998 she founded the Essaouira Gnaoua and World Music Festival.

**SENEGAL**



**Hon. Aissata Tall Sall**

*MP, Senegal, Vice Chair, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF.*

Hon. Aissata Tall Sall is a lawyer by training since 1982, she specializes in business law and leads a multi-partner firm. She has practiced internationally, including across Africa.

She began her political career young, serving as Minister of Communication and Government Spokesperson under President Abdou Diouf in 1998. After the 2000 presidential transition, she moved into the opposition and was twice elected Mayor of her hometown (2009–2014; reelected 2014–2022), before voluntarily stepping down to take charge of Senegal’s diplomacy. She has served three terms in the National Assembly: first in 2012 in coalition with President Macky Sall; later returning on her own list while at odds with the Socialist Party of Senegal; and again in 2024, nominated on the opposition list led by President Macky Sall.

At the government level, she has held the positions of Minister of Communication (1998), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2020–2023), and Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice (2023–2024).

In 2006, she walked the steps of the Cannes Film Festival for Abderrahmane Sissako’s *Bamako*, appearing as herself—an advocate for African peoples confronting harsh adjustment policies promoted under the influence of the IMF and the World Bank—a commitment she continues to uphold.

## SINGAPORE



**Hon. Ting Ru He**

*MP, Singapore*

Hon. Ting Ru He is a member of The Workers' Party of Singapore. She has been with the Party since 2011, volunteering with Meet-the-People Sessions, grassroots work and Parliamentary research and support work. She also held the position of Secretary of the Workers' Party Youth Wing from 2013-2015. Ru was elected as a Member of Parliament for the Sengkang Group Representation Constituency (GRC) in the 2020 General Elections.

Ru trained and practiced as a solicitor of England & Wales with Clifford Chance, working in London and Frankfurt, before working as a derivatives lawyer in a European financial institution in Singapore. Since 2013, she has been head of legal and communications of a listed MNC in Singapore, having global oversight of legal and communications matters throughout Asia, North America, Europe and Africa.

Ru studied at CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School, Raffles Junior College and graduated with an undergraduate degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge. She then read law in London, undertaking the Graduate Diploma in Law and the Legal Practice Course before commencing her training contract with Clifford Chance in London.

## SPAIN



**Hon. Javier Maroto**

*Senator, Spain; First Vice-President of the Senate; Board Member, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF*

Hon. Javier Maroto, Senator, Spain; First Vice President of the Senate, is active member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF, he champions stronger financial collaboration across regions and has participated in field visits to projects in Côte d'Ivoire and Jamaica. Drawing on this firsthand experience, he works to raise awareness in national and international forums about the role of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and especially the Parliamentary Network.

## UNITED KINGDOM



**Hon. Anna Gelderd**

*MP, United Kingdom; Board Member, Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF*

Anna Gelderd is the first Labour MP for South East Cornwall, dedicated to improving the environment, championing Cornish heritage, and fighting for a fairer future for local residents. A passionate advocate for sustainable fishing, healthcare access, rural connectivity, and Cornwall’s green energy revolution,

Anna brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to her work in Parliament. As an economic development professional, Anna has worked to deliver positive change on a national and international scale, from Westminster to the United Nations. Now, as South East Cornwall’s representative in Parliament, she is campaigning hard to bring real improvements to public services, create economic opportunities, and ensure this beautiful part of the world thrives in a green, sustainable future.