



Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024

SPEAKERS



H.E. Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD

Rebeca Grynspan, of Costa Rica, became UNCTAD's eighth Secretary-General on 13 September 2021 and is the first woman to lead the organization.

Prior to her UNCTAD appointment, she was the Ibero-American secretary-general from 2014 to 2021, also the first woman to head the organization. During her mandate, she has coordinated the 22-member Iberoamerican Conference and led four key summits of Heads of State and Government.

In 2010 she was appointed Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and prior to that was UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Grynspan served as Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She was also Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs, and Deputy Minister of Finance. In 2021 she was named Special International Advisor to the newly created Economic and Social Council of Argentina and invited to join as member of the G20 High-Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

In addition to her experience as a lecturer and advisor to several international organizations, she has been actively involved in key United Nations initiatives, such as the Millennium Project's Task Force on Poverty and Economic Development and the High-level Panel on Financing for Development.

In 2014 and 2015, she was recognized as one of the 50 leading intellectuals of Latin America. And she was recognized as one of the 100 most powerful women in Central America by Forbes magazine.

Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024



Dr Rumaih Al-Rumaih, KSA

He is the Vice Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, and the Acting President of Transport General Authority (TGA) since July 2022. He has more than 25 years of experience in the public and private sectors between executive and operational management. He gained a PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Colorado and an MBA from the University of Leicester. AL-Rumaih began his career in KACST in the field of scientific and academic research and was a part-time consultant in the Ministry of Defense. Afterwards, he worked in the private sector in executive positions, such as the Deputy

CEO of Operation, then a CEO at Saudi Railway Company (SAR), and then the President of the Saudi Railways Organisation. Subsequently, he became the President of TGA. AL-Rumaih chaired several boards and committees, including Saudi Railway Polytechnic, and Saudi Logistics Academy, and served as a member of the board in SAGIA, GACA, and Tabadul. Currently, he is a board member of TGA, ZATCA, KFC, TRSDC, and Future Work Co., Industrial Council.



Dr. Young Tae Kim, ITF

is the Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD. Elected by transport ministers of the ITF member countries in 2017, he was confirmed for a second five-year mandate in 2022.

Before becoming ITF Secretary-General, Dr Kim distinguished himself in the civil service of his native Korea, serving as Director-General in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT). As Deputy Director-General from 2015, he was responsible for co-ordinating various transport policies including for autonomous vehicles, greenhouse gas reduction, urban transport, Intelligent Transport Systems and road safety, among others. Dr Kim also held several Deputy Director and Director positions with responsibility for housing welfare, integrated city development and overseas infrastructure construction. He was seconded to the Prime Minister's Commission on Administrative Reform in 1996 and the Presidential Committee on Social Inclusion in 2005-07. From 2010 to 2014, Dr Kim worked at the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., as Counsellor for Construction, Transport and Maritime Affairs. Dr Kim earned Master's degrees in Public Policy from Seoul National University, Korea, and in Urban Studies from Paris University de Vincennes-Saint-Denis, France. He also received his Doctoral degree in Political Sociology and Public Policy from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) in Paris, France.

Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024



H.E. Mr. Matthew Wilson, Barbados

Matthew Wilson has 25 years of experience in trade and development and is currently the Ambassador of Barbados to the United Nations, WTO and Other International Organisations in Geneva. He has held various senior roles in international organisations including Chief of Staff at the International Trade Centre; Senior Adviser to the World Trade Organisation Director General and Deputy Aid for Trade Coordinator at the WTO. He is the Chair of the WTO Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Group; Chair of the WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution; Chair of the Accession of Curaçao to the WTO; and serves on the Steering Committees of the World Economic Forum's Climate Trade Zero; the International Gender Champions; and the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs. He has post graduate degrees in International Relations, in Development Studies; an MBA Essentials and degrees in psychology and sociology.



H.E. Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Gambia

His Excellency Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah is the Ambassador & Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the UN Office at Geneva, World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other offices in Geneva. He is the Chair for UNCTAD's Commission on Science and Technology Development's 28th session. Ambassador Prof. Kah is also one of three Ambassadors designated as Friends of the Chair of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) General Assembly.



Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024



Mr. Steven Pope, DHL

Group Head Trade Facilitation (Go Trade), DHL Group, and Chair of ICC's Global Trade & Investment Commission.

Steven is Group Head of Trade Facilitation, (GoTrade) at DHL Group and has been with the Group for 12 years, originally joining in 2011 at DHL Express as Vice President, Customs & Regulatory Affairs for Europe and Head of Trade Compliance for Europe, the Middle East & Africa.

Before joining DHL Group, Steven spent 26 years in the Public Sector, working for HM Customs, HM Treasury, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the IMF. He has worked in both the enforcement and policy areas on topics such as Customs, VAT and International Trade.

Steven sits on a number of public/private trade advisory groups and think tanks at both European and Global level and is currently Chair of the Trade & Investment Commission at the International Chamber of Commerce.

Go Trade draws on Deutsche Post DHL's expertise in global trade and logistics to help developing and least developed countries to implement best-in-class policies and procedures at the border and help local businesses to access the global market.



Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024



H.E. Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, UNCTAD – Moderator

Shamika N. Sirimanne is the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD. She leads UNCTAD's trade logistics programme, including the work on trade facilitation, maritime transport, port management, and e-commerce and the digital economy. She also supervises UNCTAD's largest technical cooperation programme, ASYCUDA—the Automated System for Customs.

Ms. Sirimanne has extensive experience in development policy, research and technical cooperation gained from international organizations, national governments, think tanks and universities. Prior to UNCTAD, she served as the Director of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), where she spearheaded major regional cooperation programmes such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, and Regional Drought Monitoring Mechanism.

During her tenure with ESCAP, Ms. Sirimanne also headed the trade facilitation programme, and led the macroeconomic policy work and ESCAP's flagship publication, Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific. Prior to that, Ms. Sirimanne was with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), where she led the economic policy team and the Economic Report on Africa, the flagship publication of ECA. She has also worked for the Canadian Ministry of Finance and the World Bank. Ms. Sirimanne holds a PhD in Economics.

+++++